

China opposes outside role in Gulf

BEIJING (R) — China appeared to do an about-face Thursday, with the Foreign Ministry announcing that Beijing opposed superpower military involvement in the Gulf. On Wednesday, Premier Li Peng acquiesced in the sending of U.S. paratroopers to Saudi Arabia to defend against a possible Iraqi attack. He told reporters Saudi Arabia was a sovereign state and China respected its decision if it wanted to invite U.S. troops to ensure its security. Thursday's Foreign Ministry statement said: "We hold that Arab and Gulf affairs should be resolved by the Arab and Gulf countries themselves. We are against military involvement of the big countries and don't want to see the crisis in the Gulf further deteriorate and a resolution of the Gulf problem become more complicated."

Volume 15 Number 4463

AMMAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1990, MUBARRAM 19, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kuwaiti police take refuge in Jordan embassy

AMMAN (R) — Ninety-three Kuwaiti policemen took refuge in Jordan's Kuwait embassy during Iraq's invasion and have been there ever since, a Jordanian government source said Wednesday. "The men were guarding diplomatic missions and our embassy. When the Iraqi invading troops entered the area they left their posts and took shelter at the Jordanian embassy," he told Reuters.

Kelly in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — John Kelly, the American undersecretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, arrived Thursday to try to persuade Syria to formally join international sanctions against Iraq, diplomatic sources said. A dormant Iraqi pipeline runs through Syria to the Mediterranean sea. Syrian sources in Beirut said Thursday that Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalaby visited Damascus this week to ask Syria to reopen the line but was refused.

'Aziz not axed, no power struggle'

CAIRO (R) — The Iraqi embassy in Cairo Thursday denied rumors that Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had been dismissed and that there was a power struggle in Baghdad. "Media reports that there is a power struggle in Iraq and that Tariq Aziz was axed... are a stigma of a feverish campaign by the United States and Israel against Iraq," an embassy spokesman told Reuters.

Tunisians voice support for Iraq

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian public opinion, at first shocked by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait, has turned in favor of Iraq following the arrival of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia. The popular newspaper Achourouk said Thursday that Western powers were "all against Iraq. We are all for Iraq. From the Atlantic to the Gulf, the Arab man in the street is on the side of Iraq." Eyewitnesses said hundreds of young Tunisians had flocked to the Iraqi embassy in Tunis to volunteer to defend Baghdad. Intellectuals, human rights activists and opposition politicians established a national committee to support Iraq.

Sri Lanka to continue tea sales to Iraq

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka will keep selling tea to Iraq despite economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations because it needed the foreign exchange, a minister said Thursday. "We will continue to sell tea to Iraq," Plantation Industries Minister Ranjana Wijeratne told a news conference. "A poor country like Sri Lanka can't afford to stop selling its produce," he said.

Kaunda pleads with Iraq to leave Kuwait

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has sent a message to his friend Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from Kuwait to avert a Middle East war, the official Zambia News Agency (ZANA) said. Kaunda, who declined to give details of the message sent on the day of the invasion last Thursday, said he would use his personal friendship to persuade Hussein.

Abu Abbas threaten U.S.

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Abbas, mastermind of past raids on Western and Israeli targets, threatened to attack U.S. interests over Washington's military buildup in the Gulf. "We will strike at American and imperialist interests immediately any foreign soldier sets foot on Arab territory," the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) leader said in a statement published in newspapers in Iraq.

SPECIAL EDITION

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Red Cross hostage leaves Damascus

BERNE (R) — Swiss Red Cross worker Emanuel Christen, released by Palestinian kidnappers Wednesday after 10 months as a hostage in Lebanon, has left on a special plane for Zurich, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. The plane, chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), was expected to land late Wednesday, the ministry added. Christen, 33, was snatched by gunmen in Sidon with ICRC colleague Elio Enriquez, 24, on Oct. 6, 1989. But Enriquez, also a Swiss, has not been released. Christen's mother Marianne told Reuters Thursday she had spoken by telephone with her son, who said he had lost a lot of weight but was otherwise well physically. She said her son was very concerned about Enriquez's continued captivity, adding: "He can scarcely reconcile himself to the fact that Elio has not been set free too."

Summit opens today

CAIRO (Agencies) — An emergency Arab summit to consider what to do about Iraq's take-over of Kuwait was postponed Thursday for a day because some delegations did not arrive in time.

One who did arrive, Kuwait's ousted emir still recognized by most Arab governments as the sheikhdom's ruler, wept as an Egyptian military band played the Kuwait national anthem in his honour.

Government functionaries attended the summit in place of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who appointed a Kuwaiti cabinet loyal to him after his troops swept away the royal government.

President Hosni Mubarak's press secretary, Mohammad Abdul Moneim, told reporters that representatives to the summit would be arriving as late as Friday morning. "It has been postponed until tomorrow (Friday) because some delegations have not arrived," he said.

The presidential spokesman did not specify which ones. Organizers said of the 21 Arab League member countries, only Tunisia,

Mauritania, Yemen and Djibouti were absent at the scheduled opening time. Chiefs of state led 14 of the 17 delegations.

His Majesty King Hussein is leading Jordan's delegation to the summit.

King Hussein was received at Cairo airport by Mubarak, senior Egyptian officials and Jordan's ambassador to Egypt. The King is accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussin and Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

The emergency summit will discuss last week's take-over of Kuwait by Iraq. Mubarak said he hoped the meeting would forestall any Western military attack against Iraq.

The United States has sent troops and material to Saudi Ara-

bia as part of a multinational force to guard it against "threats" from Iraq. Scores of thousands of Iraqi troops are massed on the Saudi border.

A source close to the conference told the Associated Press the Arabs want to give Iraq a final chance to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"The Arab leaders want to do their duty by Iraq once and for all, to give her a final chance to reverse what she has done," said the source, who stipulated that he not be identified by name or nationality.

"If this effort fails and there is no response from Iraq, then (Iraq) deserves what (it) will get. We are almost certain that there will be an external strike against (it). The question is when."

King Hussein has described the summit as the "last chance" to avert war.

The Middle East News Agency, quoting a source close to the conference, said Mubarak would host a dinner Thursday night for Arab presidents and kings who already had arrived.

"The emergency Arab summit

King consults other leaders

His Majesty King Hussein held separate talks in Cairo Thursday with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

will start tomorrow, Friday," the news agency reported. "Today will be limited to side talks among the kings and presidents participating in the summit. They will meet tonight (at the dinner) until the rest of the delegations arrive... later Thursday."

There was one important hurdle to be overcome before Mubarak opens the summit — the first in Cairo for 20 years.

Delegates told Reuters that Sheikh Jaber was reluctant to negotiate with Iraq's team led by First Deputy Prime Minister

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CBJ ready to meet currency needs, reassures public

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid uncertainty clouding financial markets in the Middle East in the wake of the rising regional tension, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced Thursday that it was ready to supply commercial banks with foreign exchange and local currency to meet the needs of withdrawals from account holders and reassured the public that there was no need for any panic withdrawals.

The announcement was made after a meeting CBJ

Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi held with the managers of commercial banks and financial institutions. The meeting reviewed "various aspects" of the impact of the Gulf crisis on Jordanian banking, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The reassurance by the CBJ comes amid a noticeable increase in cash withdrawals from commercial banks against a backdrop of mounting apprehension over the Gulf crisis, particularly after the United States landed military forces in Saudi Arabia ostensibly to defend the Kingdom

from an Iraqi invasion. A view shared by other bankers and economists interviewed by the Jordan Times is that the increased withdrawals from deposits by panicky citizens is a normal occurrence under the circumstances.

In a statement carried by Petra, Dr. Nabulsi advised the public against withdrawing money for the purpose of converting it into foreign currency through the parallel (black) market. He said such dealings would be unwise and would lead to losses for dealers. By

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Trickle of foreigners from Iraq limited to diplomats

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The trickle of foreign nationals fleeing tense Iraq through Jordan stopped Thursday when the Iraqi authorities ordered the border with the Kingdom closed except for diplomats, officials said.

A source at the Al Ruweished border post, 360 kilometres northeast of Amman, confirmed that "very few foreigners" had crossed over Thursday, and several vehicles assigned by diplomatic missions to pick up arrivals had returned to Amman empty.

"At best, not more than a couple of dozen Europeans crossed early morning and then the traffic stopped," the source told the Jordan Times. The source confirmed that scores of non-Europeans,

mostly Arabs, including Jordanians and Iraqis, had crossed Thursday.

In Washington, a State Department report on the issue indicated that the vast majority of foreigners — residents as well as visitors — stranded in Kuwait and Iraq would not be allowed to leave Iraq. "The position of the government of Iraq continues to be that diplomats may leave but that private foreigners are not able to do so," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler.

The Iraqi clarification added to the mounting tension in the region and raised the prospect of the presence of thousands of foreigners in an area of potential conflict which could restrict American military options if the tide of events took a turn to the worse.

Baghdad and Kuwait airports are closed, and Iraq has

also blocked any exit through Kuwait's Gulf ports.

Expectations that hundreds of thousands of foreigners would be allowed to leave the tense regions after Iraq opened the border with the Kingdom Monday night suffered a setback Wednesday when it became clear that no foreigner holding residence permits for Kuwait and Iraq would be allowed to cross. Only those with temporary visas — mostly businessmen and tourists — were allowed to leave.

Diplomatic sources said in Amman that the British ambassador to Iraq, Harold Walker, crossed to Iraq from the Jordanian side Thursday. Reports filed by Reuters said a group of American diplomats was prevented by the Iraqi authorities at their side of

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Iraq 'will honour' Kuwait's obligations, cancels own debts

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Thursday that it will honour the financial and other economic commitments of the State of Kuwait.

A statement by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council said Iraq would fully honour "all Kuwaiti financial and economic commitments towards states, private and public institutions and foreign companies."

It said this applied both to Kuwait's rights and its "correct debts" as long as there was no conflict with Iraq's sovereignty, security or national commitments.

It said the principle of reciprocity would be applied.

Iraq has effectively cancelled Baghdad's multi-billion dollar debt to Kuwait, announcing that Iraq would not meet financial

obligations that conflict with its sovereignty.

The announcement carried on the Iraqi News Agency came a day after Baghdad announced Kuwait's merger with Iraq.

Kuwait has an estimated \$100 billion in foreign reserves, while Iraq has an estimated \$70 billion in debt.

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Security Council rejects Iraqi-Kuwaiti merger

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council Thursday unanimously declared Iraq's merger with Kuwait to be "null and void" and called on all nations to shun the Iraqi-backed government in Kuwait.

The vote was 15-0 on the 15-member council, which met for the third time in one week to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and to support the ousted government.

The resolution says, "annexation of Kuwait by Iraq under any form and whatever pretext has no legal validity, and is considered null and void."

It also demands that Iraq "rescind its actions purporting to annex Kuwait."

The council vote came the day after Iraq declared a "comprehensive, eternal and inseparable merger" with the country it invaded a week ago.

It was the Security Council's third hammer-blow against Iraq since its troops and tanks rolled into the emirate, sending its ruling family into exile and prompting a buildup of U.S. troops and planes in nearby Saudi Arabia.

It was also the first time the 15-nation council acted with complete unanimity since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

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Fahd lashes out at Iraq, defends American role

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd said Thursday Saudi Arabia's decision to seek foreign military help was a defensive move forced by the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

It was the first time the Saudi Arabian government has told its people about the arrival of tens of thousands of American troops in the kingdom.

Fahd, in his first address to his country since Iraq triggered the crisis with threats to Kuwait July 17, said the Iraqi take-over came as a surprise to the entire world.

He called it "the most horrible aggression the Arab Nation has known in its modern history" and said his request for foreign military help was aimed at restoring peace in the region.

Fahd demanded that in addition to an Iraqi troop pullout, the Al Sabah royal family return to power in Kuwait.

Following the take-over, the Iraqis "massed large numbers of troops on the border of the kingdom," the king said.

"Faced with this bitter reality,

Parties, activists ponder means to bury Assad-Saddam hatchet

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As prospects of a military confrontation loom large in the Gulf several Jordanian political groups and leading commentators are urging Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to join forces with Iraq in "its confrontation with the U.S." Attention in Jordan and the Arab World is focused on Damascus whose position is crucial in enhancing or further undermining Baghdad's standing.

The groups, mainly the Baathists in Jordan, appealed to Assad in a telegram on Monday to reconcile with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "to serve the interests of the Arab Nation."

The most interesting call on Assad, however, came from a hitherto pro-Syrian Baathist wing in Jordan which defied its historical allegiance to the Sy-

rian President by expressing full support for Iraq.

In a telegram signed by Mohammad Al Zo'bi, leader of the "Baathist Party in Jordan — the unified organisation," the group vowed to stand by Iraq in its confrontation of the "American invasion forces."

The group sent another telegram to Assad urging him to bury the hatchet and support Iraq.

"The Arab Nation looks towards a declaration by Syria, which represents a military striking force and pan-Arab nationalism, to stand by Iraq and put all of its military, economic and political abilities — in the struggle for the unified Arab nation," the telegram said.

The shift in the group's position towards Iraq was not very surprising to observers here who pointed to a strong revival of pan-Arab nationalism and

recent attempts — since the democratisation era began — by Jordanian Baathists to unite and to take a more independent line from both Baghdad and Syria.

Some Baathists, however, said that such pressure by a Baathist group did not stand much chance, despite its importance.

"There has to be a greater popular pressure on Assad for it to have significant influence," a veteran Baathist commented.

This week there have been signs that such pressure is building on Syria as the Jordanian press and other groups joined in the campaign.

In a strong worded article, which attacked the Arab states that supported American intervention, leading Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh wrote: "We call upon (Assad) to act big... because was know that (he) will not fail (his)

Arab Nation and its commitment to pan-Arab nationalism."

In a more dramatic "open letter to President Assad," Jordanian poet and the president of the Jordanian Writers Association, Abdul Rahim Omar, urged Assad to immediately fly to Baghdad and join Saddam Hussein.

The appeals reflect a widely-held belief in Jordan and other Arab countries that a shift in the Syrian stance in support of Iraq against an American intervention might be crucial to decreasing Baghdad's isolation and vulnerability.

But if eyes are turning towards Damascus, partly as an apparent strong revival of pan-Arab nationalism and also as one consequence of the American position on the Gulf crisis, many political figures and analysts argue that an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation is more needed than ever.

Israeli rioters kill Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian man died of head wounds Thursday, two days after sustaining critical injuries when Jewish rioters stoned his car and it overturned, police said.

Anti-Arab riots persisted for a fourth day in Jerusalem. Two Palestinians were injured when their car was struck by rocks as it passed the Katamon neighbourhood, said police spokesman Uzi Sandori.

The violence of unprecedented scope in the city was set off Monday by the discovery of two stabbed bodies of Jewish teenagers.

Since then dozens of Arabs have been injured by rocks and beatings in predominantly Jewish areas in Jerusalem. Israel Radio said police would

seek indictments against 28 of the rioters.

Izzat Halhala, 42, of the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan in Arab Jerusalem, died at Hadassah hospital Thursday, two days after his car overturned during a stoning attack on the highway linking Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

The Jerusalem Post reported Thursday that after Halhala's car overturned, the angry mob pulled him out of the vehicle and beat him. He suffered multiple head injuries and fell into a coma, the newspaper said.

Halhala's wife and two daughters were also injured. Halhala's death brought to 727 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians since the December 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising.

Gold closed \$3.50 higher in London at \$385.75 in quiet trading.

Oil prices were weaker in a quiet market as traders looked in vain for direction.

"It's all over the place, it's unquotable," said one London oil trader.

British North Sea Brent blend, a benchmark crude oil, was quoted in late European trading at around \$23.90 a barrel for October loading, down some 15 cents from Wednesday.

Developments in the Middle East continued to hold attention on the foreign exchanges although business was generally quiet.

"The market is adopting a wait and see attitude," said Cairo Galazzi, chief forward trader at Nikko Bank in London. Dealers said the lack of major fresh news from the Gulf allowed some selling of the dollar, which is plagued by concern about weakness in the U.S. economy.

But its status as a "safe haven" for investors' cash in times of crisis limited the fall. "In principle operators would rather sell the dollar, but that's impossible because of the crisis. Nobody wants to get caught short," said one trader in Frankfurt.

The dollar closed in London at 1.5928 marks and 149.85 Japanese yen after ending Wednesday at 1.5955 and 150.00. Against the pound sterling it finished at \$1.8690 after 1.8675.

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Kaifu to go ahead with Mideast tour

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is to go ahead next week with a tour of five Middle Eastern countries despite the Gulf crisis, hoping to ensure that Japan's oil lifeline stays intact.

Kaifu's trip will take him to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan and Egypt.

Some of the leaders he is due to meet are key players in the dramatic Gulf developments, including His Majesty King Hussein, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said Kaifu's Aug. 15 to 27 tour, which was announced before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, was designed to give Japan a greater role in stabilising the precarious economic and political conditions in the Middle East.

"The sweeping changes in the East bloc have had a subtle effect on the balance of powers within the Middle East which was long controlled within the rigid cold war structure," the official said.

"Now Japan can play a much greater role in Middle Eastern affairs."

But many political analysts are sceptical about the role envisaged by Tokyo.

"All Japan can do now for the Middle East is to offer economic and technological assistance at best," said a political-science professor at a Tokyo university who asked not to be named.

"When it comes to political dexterity and sensitivity, Japan is next to nothing," he added.

Japanese officials are gravely concerned about the effects of oil shortages on this country, which imports virtually all its oil.

Japan joined other countries in imposing an embargo on oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait, which together had been shipping 12 per cent of Japan's oil needs.

The Middle East as a whole provides 70 per cent.

Kaifu will be the first Japanese premier to visit the region since 1978, when Takeo Fukuda went there to ensure stability of Japan's oil supplies during a previous energy crisis.

"If Mr. Kaifu overtly begs for more oil supplies from some Middle Eastern countries during his visit, not only he but also Japan as a whole might face a storm of international criticism," the university professor said.

"Japan," he said, "many once again be stigmatised as the 'economic animal'."

Minister of International Trade and Industry Kibun Muto said this week he would ask Kaifu to request during his visit that oil-producing countries increase production to make up for the cut-off of Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies.

"For Japan, the Middle East is the most important region of the world in terms of maintaining world peace and stable supply of energy resources," the senior Foreign Ministry official said.



Toshiki Kaifu

"The unexpected Gulf crisis will make his visit even more meaningful and challenging," another government official said.

Foreign Ministry officials indicated, however, that the tour could be cancelled if the mid-east situation worsened to a critical point.

Kaifu Thursday sharply denounced Iraq's merger with Kuwait, calling it an obstacle to international peace efforts, news reports said.

Kaifu made the remark in Nagasaki, where he attended a ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the world's second atomic bomb attack, Kyodo news service said.

Iraq said Wednesday it merged with Kuwait at the request of the government established after Iraq invaded the country last week.

"It is an act that should not be permitted, done at a time when countries around the world are making efforts to bring about peace," in the Middle East, Kyodo quoted Kaifu as saying.

U.S. seeks NATO allies' support for Gulf action

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The United States has asked NATO allies to support military action against Iraq in the Gulf if this is needed, alliance sources said Thursday.

The sources told Reuters that Washington had contacted NATO capitals prior to a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Brussels Friday, called to discuss the Gulf crisis and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"They want support for possible military action in the Gulf in general terms, if it should prove necessary, and they want to know what NATO countries are prepared to do to help," said one diplomat from a European member of the alliance.

It was the latest indication that Washington expects a fight with the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. President George Bush has sent troops and fighter planes to Saudi Arabia and says that Iraqi forces, which invaded Kuwait a week ago, are now massing on the Saudi border. Iraq has denied it plans to invade the kingdom.

Washington says its build-up there is purely defensive, but that there will be no appeasement of Iraq.

"The Americans feel that they must not be left to do this themselves," said another NATO diplomat. "So they are saying: 'This crisis affects all of you, not just us. If it comes to a fight, help us.'"

It was not clear whether all NATO capitals had been approached by Washington. Allied support, with supplies and perhaps troops, would be crucial to the United States, as European NATO allies are much closer to the Gulf.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has pushed up oil prices sharply, which could threaten a recession in the West's most powerful economies. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter.

The 16-nation Western alliance is forbidden by its founding charter from military intervention outside its territorial area.

"This is why the Americans have gone to national capitals, rather than NATO headquarters," said another diplomat.

The most recent example of such cooperation was during the Iran-Iraq war, which ended in 1988. NATO members contributed naval forces to help protect tankers in the region.

So far Britain is the only NATO member to have committed forces — ships and planes — to help the United States defend Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited alliance member Turkey Thursday for talks.

Turkey, which shares a border with Iraq, put its air force on alert and media reports in Washington said the United States wanted it to join a multinational force to defend Saudi Arabia.

Washington wanted friendly Arab countries including Egypt, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates to join the multinational

force. But the response so far has been disappointing.

The Netherlands, another NATO member, said Wednesday it was considering a U.S. request for military support in the Gulf.

A Belgian foreign ministry spokesman said a similar request had been made. Both countries said they would not take any decisions before the NATO foreign ministers' meeting Friday.

Alliance members Italy, West Germany, Spain and Portugal have already given the United States permission to use U.S. bases on their territory as staging posts for forces on their way to Saudi Arabia.

France has said it will boost its naval presence in the Gulf, from one to three warships.

A vanguard of 4,000 U.S. paratroops began arriving in Saudi Arabia Wednesday. American fighters have also arrived there and a U.S. naval force, including three aircraft carriers, is heading for the Gulf area.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that the United States had contingency plans to deploy more than 50,000 troops in Saudi Arabia within the next 30 days — the largest deployment since the Vietnam war.

On Friday, the NATO foreign ministers will discuss the Gulf crisis, including the multinational military force led by the United States.

"It is our view that every country which has the means" should contribute to the multinational force whose formation has been requested by Saudi Arabia, the NATO source quoted by the AP said.

But he ruled out any NATO role in the multinational force. He said any nation joining that

force acts on its own since the Gulf is outside the NATO sphere.

"The idea of NATO coming down with a NATO intervention force is politically and psychologically not the right thing to do," the source said.

Baker will brief the allies Friday on his trip to Turkey.

He will also meet here with Nikolai Afanasyevsky, the Soviet ambassador to Belgium who has been designated as Moscow's envoy to the 16-nation Western alliance.

Prior to the NATO meeting, the 12 EC foreign ministers will meet here separately to discuss the situation in the Gulf.

In Ankara, Baker said Thursday that Turkey can count on NATO support if it suffers for taking a "forthright stand" against Iraq.

One source said "there has not been any recommendation" from the alliance's military leaders to deploy NATO's Allied Mobile Force (AMF) in Turkey. Other sources said NATO's 18 flying radar planes continue to operate on their normal schedule of 130 missions a year across Western Europe.

The AMF and the radar planes are key NATO deterrent forces. The moderately armed 4,500-strong AMF comprises troops from half a dozen NATO nations. It is deployed in times of crisis to deter an attack against six areas in Western Europe that are considered militarily vulnerable, including eastern Turkey.

The NATO source said Friday's ministerial meeting was "a classic example of the increased political role of NATO" in the wake of reduce military tensions in Europe.

Turkey denies reports of Iraqi build-up on border

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's defence minister Thursday denied reports that Iraq had started strengthening its forces along the border with Turkey.

"We have received no intelligence indicating Iraq has added to troops already deployed in the area," Minister Sefa Derya told the Associated Press.

In a report based on accounts of villagers on the Iraqi side of the border, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said reinforcements at the border area included armoured units.

The dispatch said about 1,500 sentries also had been sent to border guard stations that had been unmanned since the Iraq-Iran ceasefire took effect last year.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with Turkish leaders to discuss the crisis caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait a week ago.

Baker, asked by reporters about the threat of an Iraqi attack, said, "My understanding from our discussions today is that it is not something they (the Turks) feel is imminent."

There also have been Turkish news reports that Turkey has increased its military readiness, moving some air force fighter planes to bases close to the border with Iraq.

Gray denied there had been such a shift and said that Turkey had not massed additional troops near the Iraqi border.

But he said leaves of high level military and civilian officials had been cancelled on order of Premier Yildirim Akbulut.

U.S. F-111 fighter bombers are currently stationed at the NATO Incirlik base in southern Turkey.

A U.S. spokeswoman at the base, Sgt. Marty Davis, said the planes were on a regular training deployment. She said 14 F-111s of the 79th tactical squadron had flown back to their base in England and were being replaced Thursday by planes from the 77th squadron.

Baker said he would assure the Turks of full NATO support if it suffers for joining an international economic boycott of Iraq.

Moscow rejects Iraqi move, urges joint U.N. action

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union denounced Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but said it would not take part in any multinational force or other action against Baghdad outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry statement, read to reporters Thursday by spokesman Yuri Gromitskiy, repeated Soviet calls for joint action against Iraq.

Its wording also suggested that the dispatch of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia was contributing to rising tension in the Gulf region following Iraq's invasion of the emirate last week.

"Experience over many years shows that the surest, most reasonable way of acting in a conflict is collective effort, using in full the mechanism of the United Nations," it said.

It described as "serious events" Iraq's annexation on Wednesday and the deployment of U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia. "The tendency towards confrontation and the building up of passions is unfortunately gathering strength," it said.

"Such a course of events generates concern and worry in Moscow, inasmuch as it is occurring in a region where there is already a surfeit of 'explosive material'."

The U.S. troop deployment "is explained by Washington as being in the interests of the defence of (Saudi Arabia)."

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, it said, had taken note of U.S. assurances that it was a temporary measure and that troops would be withdrawn at the first available opportunity.

The Soviet Union, which is bound to Iraq by a friendship treaty, immediately condemned the Iraqi invasion and halted arms deliveries to Baghdad.

It later joined the United States in calling for a worldwide embargo on arms sales and backed a U.N. Security Council re-

solution calling for economic sanctions against Iraq.

Soviet officials acknowledged it had been difficult to issue the condemnations in view of Moscow's long-standing friendship with Iraq and Gromitskiy said Thursday "now is not the right time to renew the treaty."

Asked whether the Soviet Union would join a multinational force, Gromitskiy said it would actions to those undertaken by the United Nations.

"If this organisation takes a decision on the use of a multinational force, the Soviet Union will on this basis work out the line to be followed."

"At this time, there is no question of taking part in a multinational force or a sea blockade outside the confines of the U.N. Security Council."

An Arab diplomat welcomed the statement as overwhelming proof that the Soviet Union was severing its longstanding links with Baghdad.

"Before the annexation, there might still have been some suggestion that Iraq could lie to everyone but tell the truth to its Soviet friends," he said.

"Now it is clear that they are lying to everyone, that any suggestion of a pullout of troops is nonsense, that Iraqi troops are digging in. And the Soviet statement even leaves the door open for some future action."

Other Arab sources suggested Moscow was treading carefully out of fear for more than 8,000 Soviet nationals still in Kuwait and Iraq.

"I think we are seeing Moscow back away a little from the United States," one source said.

"It is our understanding that the Iraqis are not even guaranteeing that Soviet citizens will be able to leave Iraq. They are also at pains to stay on good terms with the Arabs in general."

Israel tests Arrow

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Thursday launched the first test of a U.S.-financed Arrow missile that is being developed to combat short-range ballistic missiles.

The Arrow was launched at 3:33 p.m. (1233 GMT) from an undisclosed location along the Mediterranean coast, Israel's state-owned radio reported.

The missile, trailed by white smoke, shot many kilometres upward and westward in less than a minute before falling into the Mediterranean in a wide arc, the report said.

Citing foreign reports, the radio said the missile is 12 metres long, has a range of 70 kilometres and can reach a height of 30 kilometres.

Shortly before the test, Israel warned Iraq against attacking it. "Whoever plots to attack Israel must know that Israel has the ability and will to staunchly defend itself," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said.

"Whoever wants to harm it is likely to bring heavy disaster upon himself," Shamir told a group of mayors in a statement broadcast on Israel radio.

The launch was attended by officials at Israel Aircraft Industries which is developing the Arrow, and by American representatives, the report said.

Industry and defence ministry officials refused immediate comment.

Israeli newspapers had reported for several days that the Arrow would likely be launched any day. However, observers said firing the missile at this point in time in the region was a clear signal that Israel is a power to reckon with.

Aircraft industry officials have said that the Arrow would not be ready for operational use before 1992. Energy Minister Yuval Neeman said on the radio that full development may take another five years.

Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was more sceptical about the Arrow's potential. He cautioned that "we will need years and giant sums of money to develop this weapons system."

"At this stage, no country has a weapons system that can bring down the missiles that can be fired on Israel from Iraq," Rabin said on the radio.

Iraq has the Soviet-made Scud B or SS-1 surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 280 kilometres and the Iraqi-modified version of these, Al Hussein, with a range of 600 to 700 kilometres.

The Arrow, which has already undergone three simulated ground tests, is designed to defend against ballistic missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometres or less.

Washington provided 80 per cent of the 158 million dollars in the first phase of the project, as part of the strategic defence initiative or "Star Wars" programme started by former President Ronald Reagan.

Israel's defence ministry has so far supplied the balance. The total development cost is expected to reach up to \$800 million, the radio said.

Israel is currently seeking about \$200 million from the United States for the second phase. The radio said Israeli leaders were optimistic the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would speed up congressional approval for the funds.

Iran assumes tougher posture in Gulf crisis

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran, which fought a bloody eight-year war with Iraq, Thursday warned that Tehran "will not tolerate" Baghdad's merger of Kuwait with Iraq, the Islamic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

A Foreign Ministry statement condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and said the incursion "has made the 'Persian' Gulf region, the Middle East and the Islamic World face an increasing crisis, making the future prospects for this sensitive part of the world more ambiguous," IRNA reported.

The agency said the statement added that "as the major power of the 'Persian' Gulf region, Iran will not tolerate any alteration of the political geography of the region."

The statement called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and warned that "the situation must come to an end as soon as possible," IRNA said.

It reported an Iranian newspaper as saying Thursday that Washington had failed to adopt a "clear-cut" stand on Baghdad's "aggression," which amounted to a "tacit approval of the Iraqi invasion, or at least acceptance of the invasion as a tolerable act."

The radical Farsi-language Jomhuri Islami added that the United States was looking to use Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

as a "scapegoat" in the region to scare off anti-American Islamic movements in the region.

The newspaper appeared sceptical that international embargoes aimed at strangling the Iraqi economy and forcing Iraq to retreat from Kuwait would work.

"Therefore, 'regional regimes and sheikhs of the southern 'Persian' Gulf in particular, must seriously contemplate their future,'" the paper said.

The more moderate English-language Tehran Times called the international response to the invasion "acceptable," but added that "only drastic action can adequately respond to the actions of Baghdad's adventurism."

The newspaper, close to the Foreign Ministry which is known to favour better relations with the United States, said such "drastic action should necessarily come from the United States."

The Times editorial was the first to encourage American military action against Iraq. The Iranians had up till now urged a regional solution to the problem, and vehemently condemned any foreign intervention.

Washington has disclosed it is seeking help from Iran and Syria, two countries the United States has previously denounced for encouraging "terrorism," in forcing an Iraqi withdrawal.

The Tehran Times did stress, however, that "after the end of

the crisis such a force should leave the region and leave the responsibility of peace and security of the region to the regional countries."

But Rafsanjani's pro-Western inclination contrast sharply with those of his hardline, vehemently anti-American opponents. Rafsanjani's pragmatic government has been locked in an increasing power struggle with radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Rafsanjani's efforts at improving ties with the West have been repeatedly frustrated.

Mohsen Rezaie, head of the radical Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, warned that "for a long time the United States was waiting for an opportunity to tighten its hold on the 'Persian' Gulf and the flow of oil in particular."

He added that "the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait has provided Washington that golden chance," IRNA reported.

Rezaie said "the massive presence of American military forces in the 'Persian' Gulf had more dangerous impacts on developments in the region than Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait."

He added that "the Americans may be scheming to set up a new force like NATO in the region. In such a complicated and dubious situation we should be prepared to defend our interests."

Possibility of hostage drama hikes Gulf stakes

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Concern is growing in the United States that the country is about to be confronted with another hostage drama to add to its political, economic and military standoff with Iraq.

The concern centres on 39 Americans being held under armed guard in Baghdad's Rashid Hotel, allowed to wander within its precincts but prevented from leaving.

Another 130 foreigners are being held in other hotels while foreigners in general cannot leave either Iraq or Kuwait.

The Iraqi ambassador to the U.N. said Wednesday he thought the foreigners would be free to leave shortly. Dr. Abdul Al Anbari told the CNN television network: "I assure you we are fully aware of the humanitarian aspect of this issue."

He said he did not know when the foreigners would be freed "but assumed it is matter of a few days rather than weeks."

But Boucher said the United States had been pressing Iraq to allow foreigners to leave and had received a number of contradictory responses, none of them satisfactory.

"We've been seeing few signs of progress," he said.

The United States has so far

carefully avoided calling them hostages, but State Department spokesman Richard Boucher made clear that is what U.S. officials think they are.

"I don't want to get into a semantic debate over various words. I think the situation as we see it is that people are not free to leave Iraq. Foreigners in general are not free to leave Iraq. These people are certainly stuck just like all the other foreigners in Baghdad," he said.

President George Bush said he did not want to inflame the situation by talking about them. "I want to see them out of there, obviously. But what he (Iraqi leader Saddam Hus-

sein) does, that's a bit unpredictable. But I'm not going to try to heighten tensions in this regard by responding to hypothetical questions," he said.

Memories of the 444-day Iran hostage crisis which ruined the presidency of Jimmy Carter in 1979 and 1980 are still fresh. Analysts said adding a hostage crisis to the already grave Gulf situation might have fatal results.

"If there's one thing that could propel Bush into military action, it's another hostage situation," said Jed Snyder of the Washington strategy seminar.

"If Saddam is smart, he'll let them go," he said.

The 39 Americans held at

the Rashid Hotel include 11 oil workers and 25 people rounded up by the Iraqis in Kuwait Monday and bussed to Baghdad. Among them is 10-year-old Penelope Nabokov who was travelling alone to join her mother in India.

The United States was considering a joint approach to Iraq with other governments to appeal for their release. "At this point, we do not believe Americans are being singled out," Boucher said.

Iraq had indicated it was prepared to allow some U.S. diplomats to leave. But a U.S. State Department official said late Wednesday Iraqi officials had scrubbed plans for a staged withdrawal and resche-

duled discussions on the diplomats' departure for Thursday.

About 580 U.S. citizens, including diplomats, are in Iraq and 3,000 more are in Iraqi-annexed Kuwait, the official said.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry representative at the Rashid Hotel and U.S. consular officials had been allowed to visit the Baghdad captives, who were in good health.

"Their status is that they cannot leave the hotel grounds, but they have full use of the facility. There are armed guards located at the hotel, but the Americans have not been threatened," Boucher said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
10:00	Koran
10:15	Children programme
11:20	Religious programme
11:40	Friday's prayer
12:45	Sports programme
14:15	Religious seminar
16:30	Feature film "Aar"
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:30	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local programme
21:00	Arabic series
22:30	Jerash 79
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	French film
18:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES	
06:25	Fajr
05:57	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:21	'Asr
18:56	Maghrib
20:56	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield Tel. 510740	
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622646	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	

MES DAILY C

Jordan Valley 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:

Dr. Basim Qaddoud	646024
Dr. Fayed Halsegh	793252
Dr. Dared Salmour	689353
Dr. Ahmad Al Daga	676473
Petras pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Azzura pharmacy	637055
Natroush pharmacy	626272
Al Salami pharmacy	636730
Yaseen pharmacy	649445
Shameel pharmacy	637660

Minister denies food shortages

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the wake of a three-day buying spree that left shops resembling a target of looting triggered by the rising tension in the Middle East, the authorities Thursday sought to reassure the public that there was no real problem of foodstuff in the Kingdom.

Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub, visiting the ministry's central warehouse outside Amman, said the country had enough foodstuff to last six months, in line with policies adopted by the Kingdom for many years.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, against a backdrop of complaints in Amman that basic foodstuffs had vanished overnight from shelves, the minister said the warehouses had adequate stocks of flour, sugar, rice, milk, olive oil and lentils.

The "panic-buying" by people has been brought to the attention of the ministry, which has also noticed a trend to hoard food supplies, the minister said. He advised the public not to stockpile food since such practices could deprive others of their requirements.

A survey made by the Jordan Times indicated that there was no real shortage of foodstuff, but only a situation created by panic buyers.

In different interviews with

groceries and buyers, the assessments were mostly on the bright side.

The owner of the Barq Supermarket confirmed that people were rushing to buy sugar and rice. "The store is supplied in the morning, but in a matter of hours it is emptied," he said. "Do you receive enough supplies to cope with the situation?"

"The amount we receive is the same we used to receive normally. But in view of the fact that sales tripled over the last two days this is inadequate," he said.

An Osha Stores official denied they were having a crisis. "Everything is available, the amount of supplies is unlimited," he said. Faced with the fact that a day before some buyers could not find any rice or sugar, the official said it happens sometimes, rarely. Not very edifying.

Some people, obviously the rumour and panic mongers, were spreading the news that supply was meager. And maybe it was with all the buying going around. Others lashed angrily at hoarders: "If it weren't for these people, things would be different. They spread panic and create the crisis," said a satisfied buyer, who had found everything he wanted in his neighbourhood's supermarket.

Children's mini-summit pleads for care, protection

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ninety participants in this year's Arab Children's Congress held a "mini summit" in Amman and appealed to world leaders to place childhood issues on the top of their agendas, especially in development projects. The participants also asked governments to allocate sufficient funds to guarantee the protection of children of all ages.

The children discussed issues pertaining to children's health, education and peace. They recommended that all countries around the world take measures to ensure the continued decline in infant mortality rates, and eradicate polio and malnutrition. The children also voiced concern over the environment.

They appealed to Arab countries to ensure basic education to all children and to provide various types of technical, vocational and academic education of good quality for all children.

They urged Arab states to give appropriate care to less fortunate children living under difficult conditions.

They also urged countries to help victims of wars and conflicts acquire education and live in peace and enjoy childhood rights and care.

The recommendations were issued at the end of a day-long meeting organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The meeting was arranged as part of the Arab World Summit for Children due to be held in New York next month.

The recommendations were sent to their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Addressing the opening session, UNICEF Regional Director Richard Reid reviewed the reasons that prompted world leaders to organise the summit in

New York. "The summit will be a good opportunity for world leaders to look into the various needs and priorities for children and to provide care for the less fortunate children of the world," Reid said.

Nearly 40,000 children die every day around the world as a result of preventable diseases. These deaths could be avoided through primary health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation, Reid said.

Despite the wealth of the industrialised nations, the quality of life of poor children in many of those countries is deteriorating under the assault of such modern social ills as environmental degradation, violence, family breakdown and drugs, the UNICEF director said.

He said that the summit should be able to endorse a United Nations legal document that can define the responsibilities of various sectors of society towards children.

The world summit for children will be held at the United Nations in New York on Sept. 29 to Sept. 30 with the sole purpose of giving children a better chance in life.

The world summit for children will mark the first time that leaders from around the globe have met for a single common purpose: "Joining hands to try to resolve some of the universal problems that children encounter in surviving and developing to adulthood." NHF Director-General Inaam Al Mufli, who also addressed the meeting, said the Arab countries have concluded the "Tunis documents" in preparation for the summit in New York.

This document, she said, emphasises the Arab countries' determination to pursue efforts to serve children through proper and ambitious development, plans that can ensure their safe and sound development.

Senate approves liquidation of NMI

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament Thursday approved a Lower House of Parliament's decision to liquidate the National Medical Institution (NMI) and endorsed a recommendation by the House's legal and educational committees calling on the government to study health services in the Kingdom with the purpose of improving them.

The House urged the government to conduct a study designed to help both houses of Parliament to enact a legislation on introducing comprehensive improvements to the health services in the country.

Before the endorsement a general discussion took place during which House members stressed the need for a fair system of offering health services to all public sectors.

The NMI was scrapped by the Lower House of Parliament late last month amid a controversy over the financial difficulties it was facing.

The NMI had come under attack from Parliament deputies and the public for allegations of mismanagement and some proposed that the government draft a new legislation to substitute the NMI law.

The NMI was created three years ago to take over the responsibility of running the health services in all government and military hospitals in the Kingdom, but according to former NMI chiefs, the institution was functioning under very difficult conditions due to the absence of essential laws to regulate its performance and activities.

Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said that the government was committed to create a higher Health Council which will be entrusted with the task of drawing up the country's overall policies concerning health services.

Following the House's session, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh as well as other Cabinet ministers, the House speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi announced that the senate's legal committee would convene on Sunday.

Parliament expresses support for King Hussein, calls for public vigilance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament issued a statement voicing total support for the Jordanian leadership's stand with regard to the events in the Gulf region. The Lower House expresses backing for His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to contain the crisis in the Gulf and to settle the dispute under an Arab umbrella so as to avert any interference in the Arab affairs by any foreign power, said the statement.

The statement called on the Arab nation to resist any form of foreign intervention no matter what pretext and excuses any foreign power might use. It called on the Arab countries to stand together and resist any foreign military presence anywhere in the Arab World.

The statement voiced the House's call on Arab countries to settle inter Arab differences so as to foil enemy conspiracies and stressed that Arab oil is for all Arabs. The statement also reminded the Arab nation that Arab funds deposited abroad should not be placed under foreign control. It called on Jordanians to cement their national unity and remain vigilant and act with responsibility in the face of any emergency. The statement announced the formation of a committee which will hold constant meetings to follow up the events in the region.

More Jordanians volunteer to defend Iraq against aggression

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thousands of Jordanians continued to flock to registration offices Thursday to join the "people's army" to defend Iraq against foreign aggression.

Although municipal offices for the Jordanian Committee for Support of Iraq against Foreign Aggression have been opened in union and professional association buildings all across the Kingdom, many Jordanians travelled from as far as Aqaba to register at the main branch of the committee in the capital.

The committee, formerly called the Jordanian Committee for Support of Kuwait, announced its name change Thursday as a result of the "merger" between Iraq and Kuwait, a statement made available to the press said.

While committee officials Wednesday said they expected around 10,000 volunteers by Thursday, the press statement signed by the secretary general of the committee, lawyer Mohammad Al Rashdan, said the number had reached 15,000 by Thursday morning.

Committee President Tayseer Homs said that the number of volunteers is expected to reach 40,000 nationwide by Thursday evening.

"We have received notices from municipal branches that the number of volunteers has reached 40,000," Homs told the Jordan Times.

He said that 90 per cent of the volunteers have had military training and about 10 per cent are professionals, including doctors and pharmacists as well as university students.

"Most of the people registering have served in the Jordanian army," Homs said.

Both Rashdan and Homs said the committee's organisers were awaiting government permission to send the volunteers to Iraq. "We are on red alert and our offices are opened Fridays," Homs said. "The moment we receive the go ahead from Jordanian and Iraqi officials, we will contact all volunteers," he added.

The committee's organisers said that transportation to Iraq had already been organised.

While Homs, who is president of the pharmacists' union, sat in his office in the Professional Association Complex Jordanians phoned from across the country asking about the registration procedure.

Tribal sheikhs, businessmen and members of different professions flocked into and called the Amman office to inform Homs of their massive registration into the people's army.

A pharmacist from the Kaisy family in Karak, called the Amman branch and said: "The people of Karak are with Saddam." "The Americans hit Libya a few years ago and now they want to hit Iraq. If they do we will stand alongside our Iraqi brothers and fight this devil that thinks it can bomb the world as it likes," Kaisy added.

Emotions ran high across

Jordan as people began enlisting in the people's army Tuesday after the popular committee was formed.

His Majesty King Hussein expressed pride in the enthusiastic response of the Jordanian people when asked about his reaction to the number of volunteers who were signing up to go to fight alongside Iraq, during a press conference Wednesday night.

"I am proud of the Jordanian people," he said in answer to the question without commenting further.

In Madaba, Mansur Jamani of the Beni Hamida tribe signed up along with three of his four sons as well as with 1,500 members of the tribe.

"We are at the disposal of the Arab Nation to defend Arab land against the foreign enemy," said Jamani over the telephone.

Committee officials in Aqaba reported that 2,500 volunteers had registered at the committee's headquarters in the Jordanian port city.

Demonstration

A group of 50 people gathered in front of the Professional Association Complex before noon Thursday shouting anti-American, Israeli and "imperialist" slogans.

The group, mostly students and union members, said they wanted to stage a solidarity sit-in in front of the Iraqi Embassy. After holding a half an hour sit-in in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Jabal Amman the group dispersed.

Specialists warn of need to ration water consumption

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three Jordanian specialists in water affairs have cautioned the public to ration water consumption and urged concerned authorities to adopt such a wise policy in order to avert the disaster of water shortage in Jordan.

Speaking on television, Mohammad Bani Hani, secretary-general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Abdul Aziz Wesbah, secretary-general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and Elias Salameh, director of the Water Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan said that water resources in Jordan were not properly distributed; they don't serve the industrial, agricultural and domestic purposes and water distribution programmes should be imposed to deal with the situation.

The three said that as the needs of the growing population increase water resources seem to be shrinking. "Last year Jordanians used 172 million cubic metres of water for drinking. More water could be made available if a new water network were laid because nearly up to 25 per cent of the pumped water in the present networks is lost through leakage," they said.

The three specialists suggested that authorities should find additional water resources, improve methods of distribution for farming, industrial or domestic purposes, introduce proper measures for recycling used and treated water to be used in agriculture and industry as ways to deal with the problem.

The three were echoing last week's statement by Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf who said that faced with water shortages for both domestic and agricultural use, Jordan will have to develop new water resources, resort to desalination and may even have to import water to meet the local needs by the year 2000.

Water shortage according to the ministry came as a result of the decrease over the last decade in the annual rainfall, rapid expansion of population, urban growth and wide scale rural development.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation's secretary-general has noted that the Amman area alone was in need of 12,000 cubic metres of drinking water per hour in the summer and 9,000 cubic metres in winter.

Muntazz Al Bilbeisi said that the public was indebted to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) by JD 10 million which he said, would help to improve the water situation should it be paid.

He warned that WAJ would resort to cutting water supplies following a month's notice to the defaulting subscribers.

Sirens tested

AMMAN (J.T.) — Air raid sirens wailed Thursday, sending a momentarily jolt through the capital but the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said setting off the sirens was a previously unannounced test.

Petra said the sirens also sounded in the cities of Irbid and Zarqa.

The siren warning came at 13:15 (10:15 GMT) as the streets of the capital were jammed with traffic during the lunchtime break.

People rushed to balconies and into the streets to scan the skies for a few minutes. They returned to whatever they were doing when they saw nothing.

Despite the siren there was no apparent move by citizens to rush to air raid shelters.

How U.N. moved from 'mechanical' to 'instant' majority in Iraq censure

By Nur Sati and P.V. Vivekanand

DURING THE 1970s, pro-Arab resolutions adopted by the United Nations prompted critics to refer to the U.N. as the "mechanical majority" but now the world body is identified with what critics described as the "instant majority," particularly after this and last week's passage through the Security Council of two consecutive resolutions condemning Iraq for its military take-over of Kuwait and calling for sweeping sanctions against Baghdad.

The most outstanding feature of U.N. resolutions 660, 661 and 662 is the unprecedented speed with which they were endorsed by the Security Council — the first in a few hours after Iraqi troops and tanks entered Kuwait in the early hours of Aug. 2, the second on Monday and the third on Thursday, according to Dr. Walid Tash, former secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry.

Only twice before in the 45-year history of the U.N. has such a resolution as 661 imposing some of the harshest trade and economic punitive measures passed through the world body, Tash noted. The first was against the white supremacist regime in Rhodesia, which in 1980 became Zimbabwe, and the other against South Africa for its apartheid policies.

Monday's anti-Iraq resolution was approved by a majority of 13 votes in the 15-member Security Council, with Cuba and Yemen abstaining. "It was one of those rare — but these days becoming more regular — occasions when the Soviet Union, the United States, China, France and Britain — the five permanent members of the council which wield the mighty veto power — joined forces against a U.N. member," said Tash, who also served as a Jordanian envoy to the United Nations in the

1970s.

Tash said he could not present an accurate prediction of how effective the anti-Iraq sanctions could be. He said, however, that it took over two years for the sanction resolution against Rhodesia to be implemented, and even at that the punitive measures were not exactly very effective since "any country could always find outlets and loopholes."

The harsh sanctions can even backfire on certain countries, Tash continued, explaining that Japan could be taken as an example. Even if it is true that Tokyo has stockpiled oil which could last for 142 days as it said Monday, the sanctions will affect daily life, he said. According to economic experts, Japan relies on imports for 99 per cent of its oil and 11 per cent of those are supplied by Iraq and Kuwait. Several Japanese conglomerates are actively dealing with Iraq and Kuwait and may suffer setbacks in an oil embargo, one expert explained.

Commentators in Japan are reported to have already started lamenting that Tokyo was making a huge sacrifice by joining the American-led sanctions against Iraq. They argue that Japan might end up harming itself more than Iraq in the final analysis.

No sooner had the Tokyo government announced its decision to join the sanctions move than senior officials began listing the losses Japan would have to suffer.

"Japanese motivations are slightly different from those of the Europeans" in lining up behind the Americans," commented a Japanese journalist visiting Amman. "Tokyo is bound so much closely with the United States, at this point in time than ever before, that it simply cannot afford to be seen breaking rank and turning into a maverick in any American-led effort anywhere in the

world," the journalist said.

The Japanese will not be the only potential loser in the bargain, according to some Jordanian analysts and political commentators. They point out that the Western Europeans, who have jumped on the American bandwagon in the confrontation with Baghdad, will be among the losers in the long-term if the United States gains domination of the oil region.

Almost every European country has joined the international sanctions against Iraq in the wake of Baghdad's military take-over of Kuwait last week, and some of them are also directly or indirectly involved in the naval blockade that is falling into place in the Gulf. "Overlooked in the bargain is the reality that Europe, particularly the Western side of the continent, stands to lose a lot in the long run," according to Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, a former Jordanian ambassador and political analyst.

Keilani explains his theory by asserting that if the U.S.-led campaign against Iraq is successful "it will mean a total American domination of the Arab oil region through Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This in turn will give Washington the additional leverage to manipulate world oil prices in such a manner that will eliminate the competitive edge of the Europeans and Japanese in industrial exports while the Americans reap the benefits of cheaper energy costs."

Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, a professor of history at the University of Jordan, agrees with Dr. Keilani, pointing out to the on-again-off-again trade wars across the Atlantic and the advantages that possible inter-Western conflicts would offer the United States.

"Until very recently, the Western countries had been almost united under one banner against the Soviet Union,"

Dr. Hamarneh noted. "Now that the cold war is over, and the Soviet Union no longer represents a threat to the Western world, it is highly possible that the European countries will revert back to the pre-World War II and I days when they fought among each other."

Obviously, the Americans can exploit these differences in such a way as to serve their interests, according to Hamarneh.

Dr. Kamel and Jaber, a political science professor, argues that "it was the pervasive anger that an Arab leader was challenging a 70-year-old political system in the Middle East that prompted the Europeans to follow the American step against Iraq."

"The fragmentation of the region into small countries after World War I was no coincidence," Dr. Abu Jaber asserted. "Only through fragmentation could the colonialists ensure that their interests in the region were protected. With the advent of oil, the region assumed a much higher significance and importance, and now what they find in Saddam Hussein is an Arab who is defying the rules set by the colonialists and threatening to undermine the existing political system."

Iraq's take-over of Kuwait galvanised the Europeans into realising that an end to their domination of the region and its politics and wealth could be near and they are now moving swiftly to eliminate the threat as soon as possible, according to Dr. Abu Jaber.

"Oil and money and exports... all these factors fit into the picture, but the Iraqi defiance of and challenge to all external forces are the main elements behind the European action," he contended.

The political scientist agrees that the Europeans could benefit in the short term but lose

in the long-term and that the race between the U.S. and Europe for political and economic domination of the globe could prove costly for the Europeans if the Americans were to secure total domination of the Arab region.

Columnist Tareq Masarweh also sees the Europeans paying the price in the long term for their connivance with the American campaign in the Gulf. He noted, however, that France and West Germany have said they were not keen to participate in the "so-called international force" to be stationed in Saudi Arabia with the ostensible objective of protecting the oil-rich kingdom from an Iraqi invasion.

Masarweh lashed out at the Europeans for what he described as their "immoral" positions. "It is well-known that the Europeans do not have a consistent policy," he said. "They may now join the sanctions against Iraq, and kick the Arabs in the face, but it is also very easy for them to come back to the Arabs, particularly those 14 countries which condemned the Iraqi invasion and ensure that their economic interests are protected."

In any event, in Masarweh's opinion, "the Arabs have only themselves to blame for the situation."

"We should address the Arabs before the Europeans," he said. "It is because the Arabs are disunited and weak and subservient to outside forces that the Europeans now think that they stand to lose nothing by joining the Americans."

"The Europeans are obviously forgetting that it was Europe which paid heavily for the Arab oil embargo in 1973," he pointed out.

Keilani referred to reports that a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) document had found that President Hussein

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rashtal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition of paintings by 10 Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery.

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جورنال تيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4,

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Dream lives on

IRAQ'S take-over of Kuwait last Thursday signals the opening of a new chapter in inter-Arab politics and renews old rivalries in our midst. The leadership of the Arab World since the days of the Prophet Mohammad shifted from Umayyad Damascus, to Abbasid Baghdad to Fatimid Cairo before ending in the 15th century in the hands of the Turks. The dream of Arab unity, encompassing Arab lands from the Atlantic to the Arab Gulf, eluded Arab nationalists from Sherif Hussein to Gamal Abdul Nasser. The aspirations of the people were shattered by the narrow interests of the Arab elite who are still struggling to achieve legitimacy.

With the advent of oil wealth more Arab countries, with no or little demographic weight shot to prominence and importance. Meanwhile the Arab East got divided into an affluent south, save for the two Yemens, and a relatively poor and deprived north. To make matters worse, the north, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, had for decades to struggle with and contain the Israeli challenge, while the south allied itself with Israel's strategic ally, the U.S. Arab rhetoric notwithstanding, this state of affairs has created a lot of resentment among the Arab masses, especially in the countries of the north. The resentment was further aggravated by the oil-rich countries' condescending attitude towards their fellow Arabs and their squandering of Arab wealth in a reckless and wasteful manner. The Arabs of the north, who helped Gulf Arabs build their infrastructure and speed their progress, have quite often felt mistreated or unappreciated ranking in class and status behind Western nationals on Arab soil. No wonder the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait received such a jubilant response from many Arabs.

In 1961 when Iraq warned that it would occupy Kuwait, some Arab countries even sent troops to protect the emir regime. In the present crisis, even the Gulf Cooperation Council countries were incapable of invoking their defence treaty pact to help Kuwait. The times are certainly different. Not only is Iraq stronger than at any time before. Baghdad can now count on popular Arab support unheard of since the days of Abdul Nasser. This is largely due to an overwhelming feeling by most Arabs that they have been weak and divided for too long. These same Arabs now long for the day of equality, dignity and unity. Maybe the time is not there yet to realise all these aspirations. But it certainly is time to test the endurance of these objectives and goals.

The Arab summit being held in Cairo today can make a positive contribution to this end. For the sake of everyone, we hope that the Arab leaders will look at the situation objectively and make their own conclusions. The region, the rest of the world, needs a peaceable solution to the potentially explosive crisis.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The history of the Arab Nation is clean of any black record showing that an Arab fought alongside the enemy against his own brother, said Al Ra'i daily Thursday. Should this happen, it said, all the future history books will contain black pages of shame to the whole Arab nation and to the Arab ancestors. Since this has not happened in the past, nothing of the kind is expected now and in the future; and for this reason the U.S.-Israeli alliance can never find new allies in the Arab World, said the paper. The Arab waters, atmosphere and lands are now abounding with enemy troops and naval vessels, making ready to attack the Arabs; but this is not a cause of fear for the free Arabs who are determined to fight, and to pursue the struggle to defend Arab soil, said the paper. But, it said, that the most horrifying thing that could ever happen to the Arabs is to see some traitors trying to stab their brothers in the back. Fighting and even defeat, can never constitute a cause of fear for the free Arabs, the paper said; but it will be most tragic for the whole nation to see Arab children and women killed at the hands of their own brothers who chose to side by the enemy and to betray their nation.

Al Dastour Arabic daily said that the Cairo Arab summit meeting could be the last chance for the Arabs to avert a tragedy; and the quick response by Arab leaders to the call of President Mubarak indicates the Arab leaders' realisation of the dangerous situation. The response is also a sign that the Arab countries are sincere in their desire to resolve their problems by themselves and deny the foreign powers the chance to meddle in their own affairs, said the paper. The paper paid tribute to King Hussein who, it said, has displayed wisdom and far-sightedness in dealing with the problem so far, as he had sought to keep the Gulf issue under the control of the Arab League to be solved only through Arab diplomacy and dialogue. The Cairo summit opening Thursday comes at a most crucial moment in Arab history when American forces are preparing to launch aggression on the Arabs and when the whole Middle East region is facing real danger, said the paper. With this in mind, said the paper, the Arab masses can only welcome the Cairo summit as a real precious chance to save the area from further tragedies.

Sawt Al Shaab daily for its part said that the Arabs still have a precious opportunity to prevent bloodshed and avert tragedies. The warships in the Gulf and the massing of troops and fighter planes in Saudi Arabia can only mean that the foreign powers are planning to launch aggression, and they have not come here for a military exercise, said the paper. The Arabs have paid dearly since the beginning of the 20th century with blood and with souls, and the time has come for them to come to a consensus on means of dealing with their own problems, preventing the foreign powers from imposing hegemony on them, said the paper. The Arabs are facing all the odds, added the paper, and it is incumbent on their leaders now to end their differences and come to a quick solution.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute of 1990

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

This is not a defence of Saddam Hussein nor is it an attack on anyone, but an attempt to raise some questions as to what is happening at the moment in the Middle East. Obviously President Saddam, whose name translates incidentally into "confrontational" does not need my defence, nor for that matter anyone else's.

Never in the annals of international relations has there been such a consensus reached on any matter so quickly. What has President Saddam done to merit such concentrated, sustained campaign against his country; indeed his very person. I say this while at the same time demanding that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait. And of all the people of the world, it was ironically Mr. Moshe Arenz, the Israeli "defence" minister who had first called him the new Hitler.

And as if Arenz pressed a button when the Western media, who, a while ago, had a different view when President Saddam reduced the interna-

tional radical Islamic revolution to within the borders of Iran, began to sing a different tune. Once the war with Iran ended, Israel leading the West, embarked on a campaign on another level from within which it began to view the entire Middle Eastern scene.

Heretofore it was Iraq, and its President in particular who are singled out as the latter-day villains. Deliberately the United States and the entire Western camp, erased from their memory what service Iraq has rendered by reducing the Khomenei revolution.

President Saddam is an angry man. He was born in 1937 and throughout his life he has known nothing but insecurity and crises. He too, like King Hussein of Jordan, President Assad of Syria and other Arab leaders have lived their entire life in a crisis atmosphere and frustration. All of them have spoken of the double standard by which the Western world treats the Arabs and others. The feeling

has grown, not only among the masses, but on the leadership level too that the Arabs are now an endangered species. In his interview with the American Television correspondent Mr. Dan Rather, King Hussein spoke of that. And again, while the United States, Britain, France and others were most vocal in their condemnation of the occupation of the lands of others, in this case, they maintained a dark and a horrible silence when Israel continues, twenty three years later to occupy the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Our policy here in Jordan has been clear: we cannot accept the principle of this double measure with which we are treated. At the same time, we call for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. How is it that only Israel continues to behave in accordance with the rules of the jungle and get away with it? Has not Israel been a menacing predator that continues to threaten the security of the whole Arab region, in-

cluding Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Iraqis whom I met over the past few months were horrified, not only that no one extended a helping hand or at least understood the hardships and the sacrifices they offered in defence of the Arab world, but at the humiliating vilification campaign they and, their leaders were subjected to. Is this what we fought eight years for, they asked? How could the world so quickly forget the nightmare of their war with Iran?

What has been done is done, and the question should be, is there a way out? Yes, there is a way out that goes along with Arab character in general and President Saddam's in particular. He too is an Arab raised to understand and appreciate the texture of the concept of chivalry. After all it was he, after eight years of a terrible conflict with Iran, who extended the hand of peace. It was he, who sent letters to the Iranian leadership to settle matters with them in a manner that befits their dignity and honour. Pres-

ident Saddam understands the Arab traditional dictum of being magnanimous when able.

He was not unpredictable; as the Western media is fond to say when he extended the hand of peace to Iran. On the contrary in our Arab context, he was quite predictable. Give the man some time and give the Arab leaders some space to manoeuvre. Confronted, he will confront and will fight back; given time, and engaged in dialogue, especially with King Hussein who more than anyone else understands the situation, he might reconsider the entire situation.

But then the question remains, are the other parties to the dispute, especially the Anglo-Americans, and Israel, lurking behind pressuring and sniping; are they really interested in resolving the crisis or simply nurturing it, along, as they have done in the Palestine problem. Who is masterminding the swift acceleration and escalation of events? And in the United States only pos-

itioning itself for defensive purposes only — to defend Saudi Arabia or for something else? For, in the same breath that President Bush is talking of a defensive posture, it is obvious that he has more than that on his mind. A Jordanian friend quipped, "while the Bush is being beaten and egged on, the birds are falling in someone else's lap."

Strange actions and strange bedfellows this crisis produced! Classic military colonialism; contrary to what many people have grown to believe, has not left the region; it simply transferred the soldiers in the region to bases a little further on, always ready to come back. Again, this is not in defence of anyone, but something that needs to be remembered as a part of the terrible scene and the prime mover for it.

A way out that the United States should very seriously contemplate is to initiate an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. This may save every one's face.

Iraq cancels own debts

(Continued from page 1)

Most Kuwaiti assets overseas were frozen after Iraq invaded a week ago to prevent Baghdad from seizing them.

The statement said Iraq would not honour obligations that "conflict with Iraq's sovereignty, security and pan-Arab obligations."

Before invading Kuwait, Iraq demanded that the debts be cancelled because Iraq fought the Gulf war to protect all Arabs from Iran's revolution.

Kuwait was a main Iraqi backer, providing an estimated \$15 billion during the 1980-88 war. The statement said the repayment of debts was also dependent on "respect of reciprocal treatment and respect of opposite obligations."

Iraq first blasted Kuwait July 17, accusing it of costing Baghdad \$14 billion in lost oil revenue, because the emirate's overproduction had driven down prices. He also said Kuwait stole \$2.5 billion worth of oil from a field astride their disputed border.

Iraq has long coveted Kuwait and its extensive Gulf coastline, refusing to recognise its independence in 1961. British forces moved in then to face down a threatened Iraqi invasion.

INA Thursday carried extensive excerpts from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's speeches and other media reports trumpeting the merger as righting a grievous wrong inflicted by colonial powers.

It quoted Hussein as telling members of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party Wednesday that the full merger with Kuwait was "final and irreversible, warning that those who are trying to hamper this decision will reap nothing but defeat and humiliation."

The merger was "the return of the part which has been torn away from Iraq, the part where all nationalist and human values have been assassinated," the president said.

He said the invasion of Kuwait was not an aggressive act, maintaining that Iraq intervened at the request of national forces in Kuwait.

The world accused Iraq of invading in order to control Kuwait. The United Nations voted mandatory military and economic sanctions against Iraq Monday.

"We are not aggressors. We don't intend to launch aggression, but he who ventures to launch an aggression against Iraq will regret it and Iraq's will is intact from the land of Zakho to the sea in Al Ahmadi and Kuwait," the president said.

Zakho is in northernmost Iraq and Minna Al Ahmadi is Kuwait's main oil-loading terminal.

Trickle of foreigners limited

(Continued from page 1)

The border U.S. embassy officials here did not confirm or deny the account. Official reports here said that a group of American citizens transferred from Kuwait to Iraq by Iraqi forces after the invasion last Thursday were waiting at the Iraqi post of Rubta for transport to Al Ruweished, and it was not clear whether it the same group.

At least eight American women — dependents of U.S. embassy staff in Kuwait and Baghdad — were among those who were at the Rubta post, American source said.

Iraq's government-run media echoed the president's charges about the colonial system robbing Iraq of its rightful property. It detailed all the steps Britain took to cut off the emirate from the old Ottoman governorate in Basra, modern Iraq's main southern port.

INA noted in a long historical piece that the emir of Kuwait in 1829, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah, had paid an annual tribute of 40 bags of rice and 400 bags of dates to the Ottoman rulers. It said the area's allegiance was always to the rulers of what has become modern Iraq.

The English-language Baghdad Observer said the merger was "to consolidate the Arab camp against the Arab Nation's enemies and put the Arab Home in order after centuries of division and dissension."

Two-thirds of the Arab League's 21 members have called for an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah as emir. The family ruled the area for over 250 years.

Iraq's trade minister, Mohammad Mahdi Sahh, said Thursday that Iraq's economy was strong enough to withstand the "unjust economic boycott resolution against Iraq sponsored by the United States."

According to the Iraq News Agency Sahh said "the sanctions would increase the Iraqi people's resolve while inflicting grave damage on the Western economy."

He said Iraq "has effective means to raise its domestic production" but gave no details. Iraq's economy depends almost entirely on oil exports which have been virtually stopped by a trade embargo.

Iraq also asked all foreign embassies in Kuwait to move their operations to Baghdad within two weeks.

Also Thursday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met with President Saddam Hussein to discuss Arab peace efforts, said INA.

Arafat presented a Libyan-PLO compromise proposal last week reported to include an Iraqi withdrawal, that has made little headway. Arafat was given a chilly reception in Saudi Arabia when he brought the compromise proposal to King Fahd.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry asked all nations to close their embassies in Kuwait by Aug. 24 and transfer all operations to Baghdad. About 65 countries, including Iraq, maintained embassies in Kuwait.

The statement said the diplomatic missions "no longer have official status, and became illegal since the proclamation of full unity."

ANC's spear blunted

By William MacClean
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The anti-apartheid armed struggle waged by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress has never denied South African military might but has been a key morale booster and bargaining counter for voteless blacks.

Hundreds of South Africans — white and black — have been killed in bombings, gunbattles, rocket attacks and retaliatory government air and commando raids during 29 years of guerrilla action by the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation).

In a key concession to the government of President F.W. De Klerk, the ANC suspended its armed campaign last Tuesday to help clear the way to formal negotiations on ending apartheid.

While Pretoria has never had to use more than a fraction of its resources against ANC guerrillas, armed action directed from exile ANC bases has been a major source of psychological pressure on whites to grant the black majority political rights.

An ANC bombing campaign in 1986-88 struck fear into whites and for weeks some shopping centres, restaurants and bars became no-go areas for residents of wealthy suburbs previously untouched by the country's political turmoil.

But the ANC has never relied solely on armed struggle.

Protest campaigns by ANC-allied anti-apartheid civic groups have been at least as effective as guerrilla action at challenging state authority and making townships ungovernable.

Overseas the ANC's diplomats largely succeeded in isolating South Africa internationally, running twice the number of foreign missions as Pretoria and minimising the government's access to world trade, finance, sport and arts.

Mandela helped launch Spear of the Nation in 1961, ditching a 50-year policy of reliance on non-violent resistance which he said had achieved nothing for the black majority.

"A government which uses force to maintain its rule teaches the oppressed to use force against it," Mandela said at his 1964 trial on charges of conspiracy to overthrow the state.

"The hard facts were that 50 years of non-violence had brought the African people nothing but more and more repressive legislation, and fewer and fewer rights... I can only say that I felt morally obliged to do what I did."

The group launched its first attacks in December 1961, bombing government buildings around the country to try to sap white morale and weaken white-owned business.

The attacks occurred within two years of the worst mass shooting of blacks in modern South African history — the killing of 69 people by police in the township of Sharpeville.

"How many more Sharpevilles would there be in the history of our country?" Mandela asked at the 1964 trial.

With the launch of Spear of the Nation "suddenly there was hope again. Things were happening. People in the townships became eager for political news," he told the court.

For the next 15 years the military wing could field only a few hundred poorly-trained guerrillas using homemade bombs to attack army, police and government targets.

The group was transformed in 1976 when harsh police action to put down as black uprising drove thousands of radicalised youths out of South Africa and into the ranks of the exiled ANC.

American diplomat Stephen Davis estimated the 1976 exodus gave Spear of the Nation at least 8,000 guerrillas, and Soviet and East German support provided advanced training and modern rifles, rocket launchers and mines.

"The frequency of bombings, raids and political assassinations rose a conservatively estimated 62-fold between 1976 and 1986," he wrote in a history of the ANC armed campaign.

Guerrillas based in neighbouring black states infiltrated back into South Africa and trapped military cells in the townships in preparation for a mass uprising.

Pretoria has pursued spear of the nation relentlessly, launching air raids against ANC bases in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho, deploying an army of informers inside the ANC and patrolling the borders against infiltration.

"The armed struggle has long caused friction between young and old in the ANC, with attacks on civilian targets favoured by recent recruits against the older generation's preference for military or government targets."

Militants of the 1970s and 1980s argued that Pretoria's use of conscripts and farmers in militia operations against the ANC blurred the line between civilian and military targets.

A car bomb that killed up to 19 people, mainly civilians, and wounded 200 in the capital Pretoria in May 1983 was the ANC's bloodiest single attack.

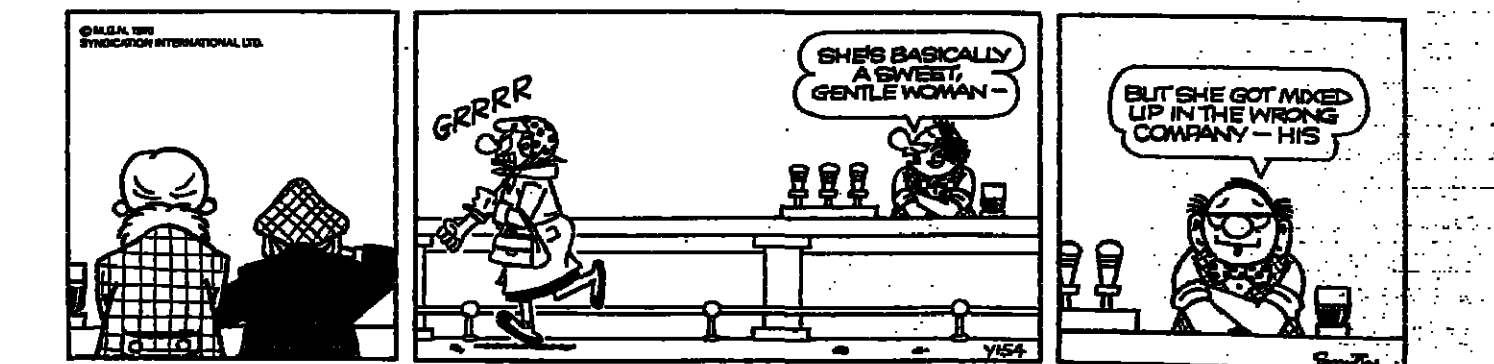
In retaliation, the South African air force strafed alleged ANC bases in Mozambique and said it killed 164 ANC members.

"There are few reliable statistics on the attacks or casualties of the armed struggle. The government has at times under-reported guerrilla activity and some analysts believe the ANC has not claimed all the operations."

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Assad-Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

changed its mind. Jordanian politicians who argue for the urgency of a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation say that the prevalence of American influence would be against Syrian interest and probably security.

Yet many analysts and politicians, showing a varying amount of scepticism about such a possibility particularly that all previous efforts, including Jordanian mediation, have failed.

Jordanian politicians cite the following reasons which would weaken prospects of Syrian willingness to reconcile with Baghdad:

— The current crisis provides President Assad with a "golden opportunity to get his rival out of the way."

— The animosity in the Gulf against Iraq is believed to enhance Syria's standing vis-a-vis the rich Gulf states.

— In the immediate term, the crisis might enhance Syria's bargaining position with the U.S. involving the Golan Heights and easing up its economic and financial problems.

On the other hand, analysts also cite strong reasons for Syria to consider making a dramatic shift that will influ-

ence the course of events:

— The prevalence of American influence in the region contradicts with Syrian interests, especially that American presence will strengthen Israel.

— Standing against American and foreign intervention is consistent with the long-standing declared Syrian political positions.

— A declaration of Syrian support for Iraq against an American attack will boost President Saddam's image across the Arab World especially in the light of the rapidly rising popularity of the Iraqi president.

— By abstaining from supporting Iraq, Assad's popularity and credibility will be undermined.

According to some Jordanians who arrived recently from Damascus, President Husein is enjoying increasing popularity in Syria. These reports could not be confirmed.

In general, however, several well-informed Baathists, remain very sceptical that Syria would embark on such a turning point. "Not unless Assad feels that Israel is planning to attack Syria could the Syrian president change his mind and put his hatred of Saddam aside," a Baathist Jordanian politician said.

Summit opens today

(Continued from page 1)

Taha Yassin Ramadan while Iraqi troops remained in the emirate.

For its part, Iraq was likely to try to block Kuwait's presence by declaring that the ousted Sheikh Jaber was no longer legitimate ruler of the state.

"If the Iraqis want to object (to Sheikh Jaber's presence) they can do so as much as they want," said an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source, adding that Egypt would not budge on the issue.

Egypt was working on resolutions calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait as well as direct negotiations to settle their dispute over oil, borders and cash.

Fourteen delegations arrived in swift succession at Cairo airport on Thursday to be met by Mubarak, a brass band and a posse of armed security men.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi arrived Wednesday night in the Egyptian capital. So did Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi. All but three states — Iraq, Morocco and Oman — were represented by heads of state.

Yemen, Mauritania, Somali and Tunisia were absent. Tunis had asked for a 48-hour postponement to prepare the groundwork for the gathering.

MENA quoted a source as saying he was surprised that Tun-

isia had requested a two-day delay in convening the summit.

He said Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali had been one of the Arab leaders to telephone Mubarak Wednesday, and had not brought the subject up.

Iraq's Ramadan, speaking to the Iraqi News Agency before arriving in Cairo, said Iraq wanted "to stress the importance of giving precedence to pan-Arab interests over narrow parochial interests."

It wanted the summit "to confront over U.S. threats to the Arab Nation and clear preparations to carry out aggressions against Iraq with U.S. land, naval, and air forces, which have taken up positions on Arab territories and waters to attack Iraq."

"Taha Yassin Ramadan" asserted that Arab leaders today are responsible before God, history, the present, and the future to adopt a unified Arab position against foreign threats and to free themselves from subservience," INA quoted the minister as saying.

Ramadan said "any aggression on Iraq, regardless of its source, will be answered decisively; and when Iraq says something, it is capable of following it through."

"The history of Iraq provides the best evidence for those seeking it," he told INA.

Iraq invokes colonial division policy to justify its merger with Kuwait

Text of Iraqi statement announcing merger with Kuwait

LONDON (R) — Following are excerpts of the ruling Iraqi Revolution Command Council statement announcing Iraq's annexation of Kuwait read out on Iraqi radio and television and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O Great Iraqi people from the land to the sea; O Zealous Arabs everywhere: scarce are the days when the Arabs are jubilant, when they are joyous because of the meanings these days carry, and when they look forward to the days to come. This has been the situation of the Arabs for the long time in which the foreigner reigned, when the national and pan-Arab will became absent from the seat of government. This had been their situation when national rule began and spread all over the homeland, because the foreigner has abandoned although the foreigner has abandoned the formulas of direct colonialism which it had previously adopted... One of the most egregious criminal acts of colonialism was its partition of the homeland, which was a

single homeland the day Baghdad was the capital of all Arabs. And following the independence which Arab countries won, imperialism started intensifying its malicious actions. Thus, it partitioned many countries in harmony with the calculations of its aims and objectives in order to undermine the capabilities of the countries which have acquired a civilised depth and power to act and look forward toward an effective national role, not only within their defined areas, but also in the entire area of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation in its entirety... in all cases, while drawing up geographic and sovereignty boundaries for all states, Western colonialism sought to make all states weak and to ensure that partition, with the passage of time, would prevent these states from closing ranks and demonstrating a unified stance. Thus, wherever possible it separated civilisation with its high, strong state of preparedness due to the rich culture and demographic density, from the resources of the new wealth, petroleum and other minerals, where there is a small population, a lack of cultural depth, and a weak state of preparedness due to the absence of the prerequisites for this. Thus, colonialism achieved its objec-

tives. The strongest evidence to show its success is that it turned the Arab homeland into 22 states before the launching of the blessed Yemeni unity in May...

What has befallen other states in the Arab lands befall Iraq when colonialism divested it of a dear part of it; namely Kuwait, and kept Iraq away from the waters to prevent it from acquiring part of its tactical and strategic abilities, and thus kept part of its people and part of its wealth away from the origin and the wellspring... and because the gates of the sky open up to the active and good will and to the determination of the believers who reject oppression, tyranny, and injustice, the gates of the sky opened up to Iraq before the day of the call on Aug. 2 and to its detached part, Kuwait... the gates of the sky opened up before Iraq, with God's will, and wide opportunities opened up before all the Arabs...

Based on all this, in response to the appeal in the communiqué of the provisional Free Kuwait Government, stemming from the great transformation that took place in the lives of our people after the day of the call... in view of what the situation has resulted in after the crescent entity was shaken and

after the earth under its feet and the feet of its collaborators collapsed... in order to place issues in their proper perspective by bringing the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole, origin, and source, Iraq; and to rectify what time had wronged and to cancel the injustice and unfairness that had hit Iraq in the heart of its entity before the day of the call; the RCC has decided to return the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and origin, Iraq, in a comprehensive, eternal and inseparable merger unity.

O great Iraqi people. O masses of the Arab nation. O Arab leaders... it is a rightful, just and fair decision. It is a decision for the present time and for the future... it is a decision for all Iraqis, from the land to the sea. At the same time, it is for all good Arabs from the ocean to Gulf. Having made this decision, we tell all evildoers and conspirators that all fleets, planes, and centres of oppressive forces in the world, whether inside or outside the Arab homeland, will not shake the palm fronds in Basra, Al-Qadisiyah, Al Muthanna, Kuwait, Al-Jahra' and the city of the call, Al-Ahmedi. We say to them we will fight your criminal force, whether you

threaten us with it or use it in a way that deserves every sacrifice by the militants and strugglers of the Arabs and all the righteous Arabs. The blood of our martyrs will burn you — so that Iraq will remain glorious and will establish through its glory and the glory of other countries a lofty glory for all the Arabs... What exists between Iraq and its southern parts in Al-Jahra, Kuwait city and the city of the call is a matter that concerns Iraq.

We have no ambitions for territory or for the wealth of anyone. Let those who want to heed lessons do so. We tell those who are trying to assemble the ranks of evil that the many names siding against us will not hide from us the manipulators and the lackeys of hell. The tongues of flame will only further expose their shameful faces... They will not escape, but will be taken into account whenever God wishes. Let the crescent of Kuwait be a lesson to go by instead of being an additional factor for more misguidance, sins and injustice.

Iraq is rich in bounties, and the generous people around it are many. Those looking for benefits and trade are also many, and they make their way to Iraq, even if it looks as

though an airtight blockade has been imposed on it. The aggression shall fail, and so will the economic blockade, as well as — God willing and thanks to the resolve of the Iraqis and the Arabs — the military aggression. After seeking God's forgiveness and help, we will demolish blasphemy with faith. A new dawn has broken in the lives of the Arabs so that they may add it to what few days they have rejoiced in together and so that it can act as a beam to dissipate darkness... We would tell the foreigners that their accomplices will pay a heavy price. And if hostilities should break out, will lead to badges and ranks falling from heads and shoulders, while laurel wreaths will increase, as will the ranks of honour and pride on the heads and shoulders of the chivalrous... say "nothing will happen to us except what God has decreed for us, he is our protector, and in God let the believers put their trust." (Koranic verse) God is great, God is great, God is great; let the lowly be accursed, and God's peace and mercy be upon you, honourable brothers, wherever you are.

Signed: The Revolution Command Council.

CBJ ready to meet currency needs, reassures public

(Continued from page 1)

the same token, he said, there is no need for any official intervention since the dealers would be the losers.

Nabulsi underlined the Central Bank's policy with regard to dealings in foreign exchange, its strategy to build the country's foreign currency reserves and its readiness to supply foreign currency to banks and financial institutions.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, an economist, said that banks continued to operate normally although there was increased demand on cash, especially in foreign currency. "The demand is too heavy, the quantity of cash is limited," Fanek told the Jordan Times.

"However, this is not a phenomenon characteristic to Jordan only. All over the world, for economic defence, the amount of cash is limited. Five to 10 million dollars in cash is easy to disappear in times like these when people try to feel safe with cash in their pockets."

The American dollar was quoted in the parallel market at an average of 750 to 780 fils Thursday, up from 680 to 690 fils last week. The official rate set by the CBJ remained at 659/663 fils.

According to Dr. Fanek, although there was shortage of the "greenbacks," commercial banks could easily supply travellers cheques or demand drafts without strain.

"The (withdrawal spree) is expected," he continued, "and is in no way affecting the economy of Jordan at this time. 'No one imports de-

pending on the black market rates."

Dr. Adallah Malki, manager of the Association of Jordanian Banks, voiced the same opinion stressing the fact that the people's rush was a normal and anticipated reaction, "a response to the tension in the area."

Dr. Maher Waked, director of the Bank of Jordan and a former Central Bank director, said he found no justification for the panic. "Our people are rational. They passed through crises before (1973) and they didn't panic."

At Thursday's meeting with the bankers, Nabulsi also referred to another pressing issue: the value of the Kuwaiti dinar after an announcement by the provisional government installed in Kuwait by Iraq said

that the Kuwaiti dinar was now at par with the Iraqi dinar.

All commercial banks suspended dealings in the Kuwaiti dinar shortly after Iraq's take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2, and certain banks in Jordan were extending a KD 1-to-JD 1 "deposit/loan" facility to Kuwaiti nationals and Jordanian residents of Kuwait now visiting the Kingdom.

Nabulsi indicated that the Central Bank had no intention to intervene in the moneychanging market, leaving it to the forces of supply and demand to determine the exchange rates.

Banking officials said there was a tacit agreement among the commercial banks to set the value of the Kuwaiti dinar at around 700 fils, although, in

theory, the floor of the currency was less than 200 fils, the same as the Iraqi dinar.

Under this arrangement, the banking officials said, banks will release only 700 fils instead of JD 1 for every Kuwaiti dinar instead of JD 1 as was the case prior to the effective "devaluation" of the Kuwaiti currency by the provisional government.

At the same time, "there could be no binding agreement since every bank is free to deal with the currency in whatever manner is beneficial to them as long as they remain within the limitations of the law," Dr. Malki said.

Impact of Iraqi move

An announcement made Thursday by the Iraqi government that it would honour all financial obligations of the

State of Kuwait and was cancelling all Iraqi debts to Kuwait should help boost both Iraqi and Kuwaiti dinars, according to banking experts. "In effect, the official rate (applied for purposes of exports and imports) remains unchanged for both currencies," noted a senior banking official. "The market is left open for the commercial banks to determine the value."

In the statement issued Thursday, Dr. Nabulsi also answered a question over the fate of the Jordan-Kuwaiti Bank — which was established with 51 per cent Jordanian and 49 per cent Kuwaiti ownership. He pointed out that the Jordan Kuwait Bank was a Jordanian banking institution, with most of its capital owned by Jordanians, and therefore it would not be affected by the fluctuation of the Kuwaiti dinar.

Security Council rejects merger

(Continued from page 1)

On Aug. 2 it condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and demanded an immediate, unconditional withdrawal. That vote was 14 to none, with Yemen, the only Arab member, not participating, saying it had not received instructions.

When Baghdad failed to withdraw, the council met again last Monday and imposed sweeping economic sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait, including an arms embargo and a worldwide ban on their vital oil exports. The vote that time was 13 to none. Abstentions were cast by Yemen, which said it did not want to harm efforts to find a regional solution, and by Cuba, which asked why similar action had not been taken

in the past against the United States and Israel.

This time all members of the council acted in unison. The resolution also calls on all states, international organisations and specialised agencies not to recognise the "annexation" and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as an indirect recognition of the Iraqi move.

The resolution demands that Iraq rescind its actions.

Its preamble includes a new demand for an immediate and unconditional Iraqi pullout. It says the council is "gravely alarmed" by the merger declaration and is determined to "restore the authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait."

Fahd lashes out at Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

and out of keenness to safeguard its territory and economy... the kingdom expressed a desire to Arab and friendly forces to participate in the defence task, he said.

The United States and Britain as well as "other states" hastened to send air and land troops to help the Saudi armed forces with their defensive duty, he said.

The king spoke as U.S. airborne rapid deployment forces and fighter jets poured into Saudi Arabia in an operation that diplomats described as smooth.

An official statement later distributed by the Saudi Press Agency said the troop buildup was running for three days to be completed Friday.

It expressed the kingdom's "deep appreciation" to all the Arab and Western states that were sending troops. Their involvement reflected "keenness to see security and stability prevail in the Arabian Gulf region until normal conditions are restored as well as the legitimate authority in the sister State of Kuwait, and all consequences of the Iraqi inva-

sion, are eliminated."

Diplomatic sources noted this would coincide with the emergency Arab summit being hosted by Egypt and widely viewed as a last concerted attempt to induce Iraq to call home its forces peacefully from Kuwait, and the Saudi borders.

British Defence Secretary Tom King said Britain's contribution will include about 1,000 royal air force and 900 navy personnel, involving a squadron of royal air force Tornado jets, Rapier surface-to-air missiles, another squadron of Jaguar aircraft and three warships.

U.S. defence officials said American naval, ground and air forces could swell to more than 50,000 men in the Gulf region within weeks, in what was described as the biggest U.S. military deployment since the Vietnam war.

President George Bush warned Iraq Wednesday not to attack Saudi Arabia, which supplies the United States with nearly one-fifth of its oil needs.

King Fahd said his unprecedented move was purely defensive.

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Favourites advance in men's World Basketball Championships

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The favourites easily advanced in the opening round of the men's World Basketball Championships, except for the Americans who allowed the tenacious Greeks to push them into overtime before finally waking up to win their opening game of the 16-nation tournament.

Yugoslavia, favoured to repeat their Goodwill Games gold medal with a victory in this tournament which runs through Aug. 19, easily swept by Venezuela 92-76.

The Soviet Union utilised a fast break to lead the Argentines the entire game and coasted to a 97-77 victory, despite the host country's enthusiastic fans which revived their soccer chants from the World Cup in an effort to bolster their team.

But the Soviets, led by Alexander Volkov, who played for the Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association, used their height and experience to smother the Argentines.

Volkov led the winners with 24 points, followed by Valeri Tikhonenko with 20 baskets.

Brazil, the other member of

the top-four teams here, destroyed Italy 125-109, behind a crowd of Argentines who jeered the Italians throughout the game. The Argentines were still upset over what some believed was unfair treatment of their soccer team, which lost the final game, West Germany, at the soccer World Cup in Italy.

Greece led the Americans 56-45 at the half and held a 10-point lead for most of the second half behind Pana Giannakis who scored a team-high 23 points.

The United States, defending world champions, climbed back to tie the game at 89-89 when, just as time was running out, Nassos Galakatos let go a nearly full-court desperation shot which spun around the rim before falling out. Giannakis got the

rebound and quickly slipped it through the net. The Greeks began to celebrate their apparent victory, but the officials ruled that time had run out. The taped replay supported the decision.

The Americans easily outscored the Greeks in overtime to win 103-95.

In the five-minute overtime period, the Greeks appeared demoralised while the Americans woke up to breeze to victory.

American Billy Owens was the game's top scorer with 33 points, mostly assisted by Kenny Anderson and teammate Chris Smith, who had 12 points. Alonzo Mourning, closely guarded throughout the game, had 13 points for the winners.

The outcome of the game may have been different if Greece had not been without its top scorer, Nikos Galis, who had averaged 33.7 points for them, but did not even make the trip here because of injury.

Giannakis, with 23 points was his team's highest scorer, consistently dribbling through the U.S. defence into the key to score. He

pumped in three three-footers as well.

Greece's coach Efthimis Kionomourtzoglou said: "Today we had a great opportunity to beat the United States but we couldn't take advantage of it. At the moment of the controversial two pointer (Giannakis's rebound after the long shot by Galakatos), I thought it was valid but afterwards I could see that it was after the time (had run out)."

U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said: "The Greek team played an excellent game with extraordinary direction from their coach. It's not surprising that they have emerged as one of the best European teams in the past few years.

The small and agile Egyptians surprised the Canadians by being very competitive, until the Canadians slowed the pace of the game with a full-court press and by taking more time to set up plays. The Canadians won 83-68.

In other games, Australia beat China 106-85, Spain romped past South Korea 130-101 and Puerto Rico beat Angola 78-75.

Agassi having too much fun

MASON, Ohio (Agencies) — Andre Agassi wouldn't mind winning one of tennis' Grand Slam events. But he's having too much fun to be concerned about it.

Agassi, who won his first match Tuesday in the \$1.3-million ATP championships at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Centre, said he doesn't want to focus on the Grand Slam events.

"I'll take it if it comes, like winning the U.S. Open. ... I'm not going to pressure myself into doing it," Agassi, the tournament's No. 2 seed, said after beating Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-3.

"It would be nice to prove yourself but I'm having too good a time to worry about it."

Agassi, the world's fourth-ranked player, has appeared in only one Grand Slam final, losing to Andre Gomez in this year's French Open.

Gomez, seeded third at the ATP, beat Dan Goldie 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) in Tuesday's other second-round match.

Gomez said his victory in the French Open this year has left him emotionally drained.

"I felt like I left a lot there. I needed some time to get back to where I was," Gomez said after Tuesday's victory. "I'm too relaxed. I need to get more intense. I'm working at that."

In first-round play Tuesday, Darren Cahill upset 14th-seeded Tim Mayotte 1-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Marcus Ondruska eliminated No. 16 Petr Korda 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

Cahill said he doesn't put much

stock in the rankings. Cahill is ranked 60th in the world while Mayotte is 23rd.

"To give you an example, last week I beat Mayotte in an exhibition, then I lost to a guy ranked No. 250, Libor Nemecek," Cahill said after Tuesday's match.

Two other seeded players won first-round matches. No. 10 Pete Sampras beat David Pate 7-6, (7-5), 6-4, and 15th-seeded Richard Fromberg defeated Karel Novacek 3-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, who will replace Ivan Lendl as world number one if he reaches the final of the \$1.3 million ATP tennis championships, struggled to win his second round match Wednesday.

The top-seeded Swede, who received a bye into the second round, was fortunate to oust Czechoslovak Milan Srejber 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, but showed no ill-effects of an ankle sprain suffered last Sunday in the final of a Los Angeles tournament.

"From the look of it today, it was a close call. I wasn't 100 per cent fit, but I was good enough to win," said Edberg, who limped his way to victory over Michael Chang Sunday to win his first title since taking his second Wimbledon crown.

Other seeds to advance included eighth seed John McEnroe and fellow Americans Brad Gilbert, seeded fourth, and fifth seed Aaron Krickstein.

Ninth seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union was the only

seed to fall Wednesday. He was ousted by American Scott Davis 6-3, 6-2.

While Edberg prepared to make a run at Lendl's top ranking, his compatriot Mats Wilander continued to stumble in his comeback efforts.

The unseeded Wilander, now ranked 42nd in the world, fell to Australian Darren Cahill 6-3, 6-2.

It was the third consecutive second round defeat for Wilander, who had taken several months away from the game to be with his father who recently died of cancer.

Edberg looked strong as he took the first set and a 3-1 lead into the second. But suddenly the towering Czech found his rhythm and the second seed began making unforced errors.

Srejber forced a second set tiebreak, winning it 7-5, and was up a break in the third with momentum clearly on his side.

But the Wimbledon champion raised his game a notch when he had to, breaking the 64th-ranked Srejber in the eighth and 10th games to keep alive his chance of becoming the number one player in the world by week's end.

Wilander, who dethroned Lendl two years ago but only managed to remain number one for 16 weeks, was asked if he had any words of wisdom for Edberg.

"If he wants to stay at number one, I don't think I should give him any advice," joked Wilander.

English soccer players worry about cut-price foreign signings

LONDON (R) — English soccer players are concerned that cut-price Eastern Europeans are threatening their jobs.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), said Wednesday: "We are concerned that our high domestic transfer fees are encouraging clubs to look abroad."

"The clear impression is that Eastern European players are being signed purely because they are cheaper."

"Lots of clubs are being approached by agents offering foreigners and we do not want places being taken by players who

may not be better than our own, just cheaper."

Since the sweeping political changes in Eastern Europe, notable signings include Czechoslovak goalkeeper Ludek Miklosko at second division West Ham and World Cup star Jan Stejskal at Queen's Park Rangers.

Southampton have signed two Soviet players — Sergei Gotsmanov and Alexei Cherednik — while Wimbledon have Pole Detsi Krysinski and Hungarian Zoltan Csicsansky is with Coventry.

Off the field, former Czechoslovak national coach Jozef Venglos last month became the first

non-Briton to manage an English First Division club when he joined Aston Villa.

Taylor said that while he did not want "to put up an iron curtain in reverse," he had met League and Football Association officials recently to express his members' worries.

"At the moment they are both in line with our thinking," he said. The need was to protect domestic talent for the future.

Current English League rules state that clubs may field three non-British or non-Irish players, with the proviso that non-European Community players need a work permit.

Alesi, Tyrrell keen to upset top motor racing teams

BUDAPEST (R) — Frenchman Jean Alesi will lead a determined bid by Tyrrell to check the dominance of the McLaren, Ferrari, Benetton and Williams teams at Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

Alesi, who has been linked with all four leading teams, believes he can end a disappointing mid-season run by finishing among the points for the first time since the Monaco Grand Prix in May.

His Ford-powered car's trim chassis and the recent impressive performances of the Pirelli qualifying tyres have persuaded Alesi and team chief Ken Tyrrell that the twisting and dusty Hungarian circuit, 25 kilometres northeast of Budapest, offers their best chance of victory this season.

"The Hungarian is a much better prospect for us because we will be at less of a disadvantage compared to the more powerful machines," said Tyrrell. "We are looking forward to this race because it offers us a real prospect

for points."

Tyrrell believes that Alesi has an excellent chance of qualifying for the front two or three rows of the grid. He also expects teammate Satoru Nakajima of Japan to be well placed on the grid.

Alesi's performances earlier in the season — he finished second both in the opening race at Phoenix and in Monaco — proved he and his Tyrrell car are well suited to the twisting and more demanding circuits.

But he is sure to face a formidable challenge from the big guns as he pursues his first grand prix win and the Tyrrell team's first victory since the U.S. Grand Prix at Detroit in 1983.

Ferrari, for whom Briton Nigel Mansell won in Hungary 12 months ago, will be looking to world champion Alain Prost to win in Hungary for the first time and reclaim the leadership of the Drivers' Championship from Brazilian Ayrton Senna.

Senna is unlikely to give the Frenchman an easy passage. He

followed his victory in the West German Grand Prix two weeks ago with some impressive driving in testing in Italy last week.

Benetton, powered by a new Series IV version of Ford's V-8 engine, also showed a return to form in West Germany and both Italian Alessandro Nannini and team-mate Nelson Piquet, a winner in Hungary in 1986 and 1987, could be among the pacesetters.

The Williams team will be keen to make a good showing after a spell during which they have struggled to keep pace. They hope aerodynamic revisions introduced by new senior designer Adrian Newey will help.

"I am certain that we will be more competitive than we were at Hockenheim, but we must remember this is a very hard race on the cars and the drivers," said Italian Riccardo Patrese, who was on pole for Williams last year.

Only half of the 26-car field finished the 1989 race.

E. German sport almost out for the count

EAST BERLIN (R) — Like a once-great boxer dispatched to the canvas, East Germany's long-vaunted sports system is down and almost out for the count.

Just two years ago East Berlin's Communist rulers fed their ideological ambassadors who returned from the Seoul Olympics with 37 gold medals, 35 silver and 30 bronze — second only to the mighty Soviet Union and, more importantly, ahead of the United States and West Germany.

Now the Communists are gone, the ideology discredited and the sports stars more worried about jobs than medals.

The whole economy, in painful transition to the free market after an economic merger with Bonn last month, is in collapse with no spare cash for luxuries like sport.

"There's no doubt we have grave financial problems," Bernd Stade, spokesman for the once-powerful DTSG (German Gymnastics and Sports Federation), said.

"It is quite clear that the money we have is nowhere near enough."

The DTSG requested 154 million marks (\$97 million) from the government for the second half of 1990 but is getting 103 million (\$65 million) and has yet to see much of that.

On Tuesday it announced sport would have to cut back to 2,300 jobs from the 10,500 it boasted before the democratic uprising last year.

All 350 swimming coaches are being sacked and all but two of the 592 athletics trainers will be out of a job.

Unification with Bonn is weeks away and East German sports federations are bracing themselves to be swallowed up by bigger West German organisations.

The last East German soccer season starts Saturday, a fierce battle to find which two teams from the Oberliga First Division join West Germany's Bundesliga next year.

To save money, East German swimmers travelled by bus to Rome for the European Open Cup and their last international appearance as a separate team.

Domestic athletics championships in Dresden on Aug. 17-19 have been saved only at the expense of other events and by diverting precious sponsorship cash.

"It hurts to take money from mass sport events, particularly for children, but there was no way round it," said Joachim Krebs, deputy general secretary of the Athletics Federation (DVFL).

It all represents a dramatic fall from grace for a rare East German success story, whatever the merits of a system which headhunted in kindergartens, moulded world stars in special schools and then pampered them while neglecting mass sport.

In sports selected for maximum medal-winning potential, East Germany over 40 years became international leaders and put their unloved, walled-in country on the map.

Swimming, athletics, cycling, speed and figure skating, bobsledding and other disciplines produced stars whose names are inextricably linked to their sports — Kristin Otto, Marita Koch, Karin Kania, Katarina Witt, Ulf Timmermann, Wolfgang Hoppe.

Skah aims to emulate Aouita as record breaker

BRUSSELS (R) — Moroccan Khalid Skah aims to emulate compatriot Said Aouita as a world record breaker when he runs the 10,000 metres at Friday's Brussels Grand Prix Athletics meeting.

The world cross country champion is one of a group of talented Moroccans who could take over from the Kenyans as the world's premier middle and long distance runners.

Aouita, the world 1,500 and 5,000 metres record holder, makes a belated start to his season in the Netherlands this weekend after operations on both calf muscles in June.

In his absence, Skah, a law student from Fez, has pledged to keep Morocco's name prominent on the European circuit.

"I am filling the gap left by Aouita," Skah said recently.

The Moroccan's rivalry with Kenya's finest has led him to ask Brussels' promoter Wilfried Meert to exclude them from Friday's race.

Skah told Meert he did not want any Kenyans in the 10,000

because of the uneven pace they set and said he would bring his own pacemakers.

He will be attacking the world record of 27 minutes 08.23 seconds set by Mexican Arturo Barrios a year ago.

Kenya's Olympic champion Julius Kariuki, who has been in superb form this year, has indicated he would attack the world 3,000 steeplechase record while the 800 metres field would grace an Olympic final.

Olympic champion Paul Ereng of Kenya takes on compatriot Nixon Kiprotich and 1984 Olympic gold medalist Joaquim Cruz of Brazil.

Romania's Doina Melinte, unbeaten over 1,500 metres this year, steps down to 800 where she faces a formidable challenger in Cuban Ana Quirot, last year's number one.

Spectators at the Heysel stadium will also get a chance to savour the explosive sprinting of Americans Leroy Burrell and Michael Johnson, fastest in the world this year over 100 and 200 metres respectively.

Graf and Maleeva reach quarterfinals at San Diego

SAN DIEGO (R) — Top-seeded West German Steffi Graf and fourth seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland posted straight set victories to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$225,000 Great American Tennis Classic Wednesday.

Maleeva, ranked ninth in the world, jumped out to a 5-1 lead in each set as she crushed American Patty Fendick 6-1, 6-2 in 70 minutes.

Graf, however, was disappointed with her 6-3, 6-4 victory over American Kathy Rinaldi, who played way over her head in a thrilling 6-3, 6-4 baseline duel with the world number one.

"I didn't play well at all," said Graf. "I was angry at myself because I set up the points but I didn't finish them off the right way."

The difference for Graf was a lone service break in each set, otherwise the one hour 17 minute match was surprisingly even.

"I went in believing I could do it," said the 72nd-ranked Rinaldi. "She's still unbelievable. But tonight I played a solid match. There was just a little difference out there."

American Anne Grossman pulled off the upset of the day when she ousted eighth-seeded Italian Raffaella Reggi 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 to take her place in the quarterfinals.

"Raffaella Reggi is a tough player. She's not going to give away anything," said the 52nd ranked Grossman after her second round win. "She's one of the best and to beat her 6-1 in the

third is a pretty good effort." Wimbledon runner-up Zina Garrison, who was getting over a bout with the flu, completed the first round with a 6-2, 6-2 win over fellow American Gigi Fernandez.

"I had thoughts of pulling out I was feeling so bad," said the fifth-ranked Texan. "But I'm feeling 100 per cent better and I was fortunate to play. I don't think I could have played singles Tuesday the way I felt."

Meanwhile Martina Navratilova pulled her left calf muscle during practice and withdrew from the Tennis Tournament before playing her first match Tuesday.

But Navratilova, who hurt herself while practicing with doubles partner Gigi Fernandez Monday, said she hoped she would be able to play in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles and in the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 27.

Navratilova, ranked No. 2 in the world, said she hoped to be playing by the end of the week, although an orthopedic surgeon who examined her said it would take two weeks for her injury to heal.

"I think I'll be all right. It's gotten better throughout the day," Navratilova said. "I'm a pretty good healer. But it depends on how fast it heals as to whether it will hamper me for the open."

Navratilova wore cowboy boots to the news conference. "Cowboy boots are the best thing you can wear. Ask any podiatrist," she said.

West German claims opening slalom victory

MOUNT HUTT, New Zealand (AP) — West German Peter Roth has produced a sizzling second run to win the opening slalom race of the first World Cup skiing series of the 1990-91 season.

Roth, 29, improved from 14th after the first run to overhaul a number of top-rated rivals and score his first World Cup win in 12 years on the circuit.

Roth trailed first-run leader Alberto Tomba of Italy by 1.57 seconds after the first run.

He had a combined time for the two runs of 1 minute, 42.69 seconds, while Michael Tritscher of Austria was second in 1:42.70. Tomba finished third in 1:42.77 after a disappointing second run.

Fabio de Crignis of Italy was fourth in 1:42.82, with Paul Accola of Switzerland fifth in 1:43.00.

"I am very happy," said Roth, who was surrounded by delighted teammates after his win. "Perhaps I will have a drink tonight to celebrate — maybe a little beer."

GOREN BRIDGE

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SPOT THE KEY CARD

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ A K Q 10
♣ Q 7 4

WEST ♠ 8 6 5 4 3
♥ A K 3
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ 3

EAST ♠ A J 10 9
♥ 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ 10 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 7 2
♥ Q 10 7 6 5
♦ 6 3
♣ A K J 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Before reading on, study the diagram carefully. Then decide which of East's cards is destined to play a crucial role in defeating South's heart game.

North-South were using a 15-17 point range for their one no trump opening bids, so North's four diamonds was a cue-bid showing a maximum opening and a good heart fit. However, South was not interested in anything more than game.

West's lead of the three of clubs

looked suspiciously like a singleton. The instinctive reaction by most declarers would have been to win the club in hand and lead a trump at trick two, but that would have led to defeat. Sooner or later, West would get to East with a spade for a club return, and West's ruff would defeat the contract by a trick.

In an effort to avert fate's decree, declarer won the club opening and cashed dummy's three top diamonds, discarding a spade from hand. When the ten of diamonds was led off dummy, East signalled emphatically with the jack of spades and declarer parted with his remaining spade. West scored his jack of diamonds, but two trump tricks were all the defenders could collect, thereafter, since West's link to partner had been severed.

East was sleeping on the job. Instead of signalling an entry, the defender should have ruffed with his "useless" two of hearts. If he had, declarer would have had no way to avoid defeat. Since he could not afford to let East gain the lead, declarer would have to overruff and hope for a fortunate trump position, or finding West with the ace of spades. Since neither situation existed, West was bound to get a club ruff for down one.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 10, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Concentrate upon the biggest benefits and the procedure that can put you at the top of the heap. Get out of any petty rut that you feel has been holding you back.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Conditions unfolding from a distance can now be utilised by you in your every day dealings very much to your advantage so be on the lookout for them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A business person has some valuable suggestions you will be able to apply in your financial scheme so you have more abundance in your future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some definite demand by an unyielding associate should be considered from long range potential results rather than for the moment's gratification.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The amount of returns from which you get from whatever your usual source of benefits can be increased now by an unusual opportunity to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go along with some advertisement or notice you have received about an entertainment that appeals to you and include congenial companions in such activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Its advisable you join with a family member in various construc-

tive ideas and plans for making conditions at your home more operative and workable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take to heart the various longings that have been expressed by your close attachment and get what that person desires and happy romance follows.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think of some additional ways you can gain more security and social future for those who dwell beneath your own roof and do so right away.

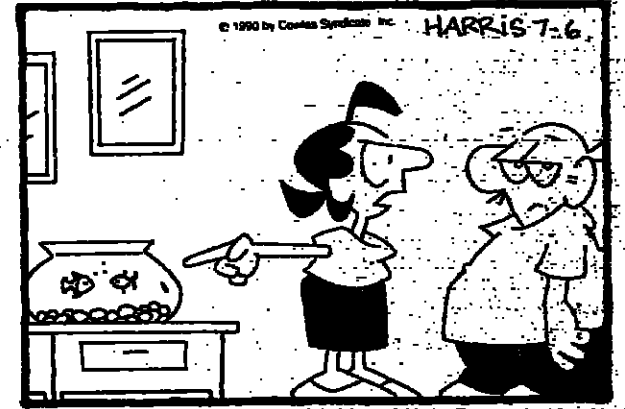
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get out of yourself and see with those who are in a position to give you the support and backing you desire in your everyday affairs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some intimate longing that can now become an actual part of your life if you approach putting it across in a more modern manner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Keep letting companions who act in a loyal manner to you, know what they can do to help you make any unusual dreams come true for best results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get a meeting with any influential persons you can contact and present both your worldly and private wishes to them in an unconventional manner.

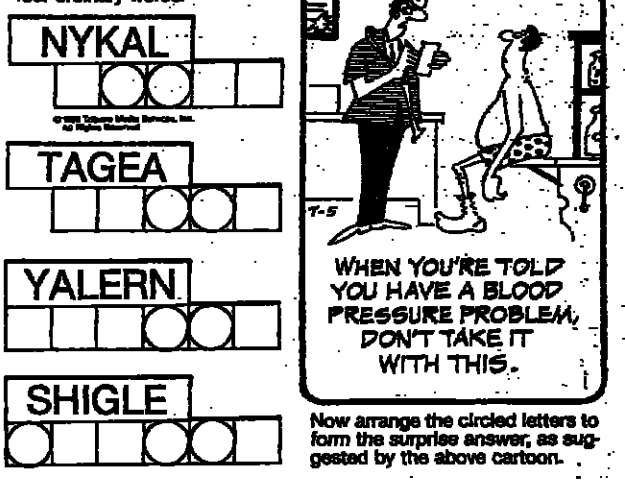
THE BETTER HALF.



"I spent hours rearranging the rocks and you didn't even notice!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



July 1990

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1990 7

U.S. airlines hike fares

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. airline travellers are beginning to feel the pinch of the Gulf crisis as the largest U.S. carrier and two others hike fares by as much as 10 per cent in what they say is an effort to defray the rising cost of jet fuel.

Crude oil prices have risen about 40 per cent since Middle East tensions exploded last week with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. As a result, jet fuel prices have already begun to climb.

AMR Corp's American Airlines unit — the largest U.S. carrier — said that effective Thursday it is raising fares by 10 per cent. The airline blamed higher fuel prices.

"We regret that recent events in the Middle East have caused a significant increase in fuel prices leading to the need to increase fares," Michael Gunn, American Airlines senior vice president for marketing, said in a statement.

American was following the lead of NWA Inc's Northwest Airlines and Pan Am Corp. Pan Am announced a 10 per cent across the board fare hike Monday.

Trans World Airlines Inc. (TWA) also announced fuel surcharges within the last week. All blamed the Gulf crisis.

Analysts said rising fuel costs, combined with a weakening U.S. economy, may lead to a shakeout of the industry, killing off weaker carriers and improving long-term prospects for survivors.

"Our long-standing theme has been that the weak carriers would be getting weaker and the strong stronger," said County Natwest Airline analyst Michael Derchin. "Spiking oil prices and an economic recession will accelerate the process."

Analysts said Eastern Airlines, the bankrupt subsidiary of Continental Airlines Holdings Inc., is likely to be the most vulnerable.

"The odds of Eastern's survival, in our opinion, have gone down as a result of recent energy and economic developments," said Derchin.

Pan Am and TWA are also susceptible to a downturn, analysts said.

American Airlines said the increases take effect Aug. 10 for fares in the continental U.S., Hawaii and the Caribbean. Similar increases for international fares take effect Aug. 15.

Lloyd's announces new insurance rates for ships sailing to ports in Gulf

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London shipping insurance market Wednesday increased premiums for vessels sailing to Saudi Arabia by 4,000 per cent, reflecting the growing threat of war in the Gulf.

Lloyd's said it was raising the war risk premium on all ships sailing to Saudi Arabia and to Iranian ports in the north of the Gulf to one per cent of a vessel's insured value, compared with 0.025 per cent previously.

The increase of 4,000 per cent would mean a supertanker worth on average about \$35 million (\$65 million) would have to pay a new premium of \$350,000 (\$650,000) compared to \$8,750 (\$16,390) last week, according to the General Council of British Shipping.

Wednesday's increases came as the United States announced it was sending troops and combat planes to Saudi Arabia to deter a possible attack by Iraqi forces massed on the Saudi border.

Lloyd's underwriters said premiums on ships sailing to other parts of the Gulf were increased tenfold to 0.25 per cent and a war risk rate had also been introduced for ships bound for Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aden.

Lloyd's introduced the war risk premium for Gulf shipping, the first since the 1980-88 Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, last Thursday following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Wednesday's increases came as the United States announced it was sending troops and combat planes to Saudi Arabia to deter a possible attack by Iraqi forces massed on the Saudi border.

Firms deny allegations of oil price 'gouging'

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. oil companies Wednesday sought to counter growing criticism — most recently from President George Bush — of the sharp rise in petrol prices after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"I am asking oil companies to do their fair share," Bush said in a televised address. "They should show restraint and not abuse today's uncertainties to raise prices."

In response, Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO), a major West Coast refiner and marketer, said it would freeze wholesale petrol, diesel and jet fuel prices for one week.

"At the end of the week our position is out of line with world market prices, we will have to recognise that fact," said George Babikian, president of ARCO Products Co.

Other oil company executives defended their recent moves to push prices higher.

"We recognise the president's concern," said Jerry Smith, spokesman for Phillips Petroleum Co. "We feel that we have not acted in an unrestrained manner."

He added: "We deny we are price gouging."

Since Iraq overran Kuwait last

Thursday, U.S. retail petrol prices have risen as much as 15 cents a gallon, even though there is a lag of several months between the time oil is purchased and the time it arrives at the pump.

Oil prices plunged on futures markets Wednesday on expectations that several countries would boost production to make up for the crude taken off the market by the world embargo of Iraq and Kuwait.

Oil company spokesmen sought to deflect the growing criticism, saying that the industry was limiting increases in the face of soaring wholesale prices. Crude prices now are 20 per cent higher than they were before the invasion.

"The industry is showing restraint," said Paul Durkin, a spokesman at Sun Oil Co.

President George Bush Wednesday said he will ask other oil-producing nations to replace embargoed Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil on world markets and explore whether to dip into U.S. strategic reserves to bolster supplies.

The president also asked Americans to conserve energy.

Bush did not name the countries he planned to call on to increase production.

Cuba starts rationing razor blades

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's internal trade ministry has ordered the rationing of razor blades, saying they were in short supply. A ministry statement reproduced by the state media said the blades would be sold through the existing monthly ration book system and initially restricted to two blades per adult male. When another shipment arrived, the ration would be raised to three blades for each adult male and one for each adult woman, the statement added. The Soviet Union and East European nations have been the main suppliers of razor blades to Cuba. President Fidel Castro, who has a beard, said recently that the supply of some articles from these countries had fallen this year by half. To ensure equal distribution, basic food items such as rice, beans, coffee, lard and cooking oil are rationed in communist-ruled Cuba, which has lived for nearly 30 years with a strict U.S. economic blockade.

Tokyo stocks end sharply lower

TOKYO (R) — A spate of futures-related selling left volatile Tokyo shares prices sharply lower Thursday, while the dollar treaded water against most currencies to close slightly lower.

The key 225-share Nikkei index plunged 893.41 points, or 3.13 per cent, to close at the day's low of 27,615.73.

"I'm talking to you now with a smile on my face, but I'm crying inside," said Toshitsugu Ogawa, head of fund management at Toyo Securities Co. Ltd.

The Nikkei moved in a 886.69-point range from a high of 28,502.42 at the opening to its low at the close.

The benchmark Nikkei jumped 856.07 points Wednesday, its eighth biggest one-day point gain ever, which injected a note of caution into the market Thursday.

Speculation that Iraqi forces may attack Saudi Arabia flooded the market Thursday morning and fuelled selling.

Iraq has denied such plans, but Washington analysts said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is being pushed into a corner and may be tempted to strike against Saudi Arabia soon.

"The market latches onto one piece of information, reacts, and then places its judgement on it," Ogawa said. "It does not have a chance to consolidate."

"The market was extremely weak, and almost no one was interested in buying stocks," said Yoshio Ogawa, chief trader at Nikko Securities Co.

He said investors had become increasingly pessimistic about the Middle East conflict, which they believe will be prolonged.

The Tokyo stock market, already vulnerable due to higher interest rates, has lost 4,343.01 points since July 20.

"It is rather natural for the index to plunge," said Masahiro Yagi, deputy director of the capital trading department at Sanwa Bank. "The Japanese stock market has been suffering from increasing interest rates, and that's the fundamental problem."

Yagi said the Bank of Japan will have to raise its discount rate, now 5.25 per cent, at some point.

The dollar closed at 149.68 yen and 1.5911 marks from 149.80 and 1.5925 at New York's Wednesday close.

"Dollar sentiment is bearish on

concerns over a weaker United States economy, but the dollar's decline looks likely to be limited because no one can tell what Iraq will do next," said Nobuo Takel, a customer dealer at Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co.

In regional share markets, Australian stocks ended weaker but off lows due to bargain hunting and demand for oil stocks. The All Ordinaries ended 5.6 points weaker at 1562.7, off the low of 1552.8.

Taiwan stocks slumped sharply on worries about the Gulf crisis, ending at their lowest level since May 25, 1988.

The weighted index dropped 302.35 points or 6.67 per cent to 4,232.21. It hit a low just before the close of 4,226.73. Turnover was light at 28.4 billion Taiwan dollars, down from 39.8 billion Wednesday.

Singapore markets were closed for a holiday.

In late Tokyo afternoon trading, West Texas Intermediate was unchanged from Wednesday's New York futures close of \$25.65 per barrel.

Gold was quoted at \$382.55 per ounce in late trading against \$383.25 in New York Wednesday.

Peru boosts petrol, food prices and revamps exchange policies

LIMA (R) — Peru's economy minister, saying the country was "on the brink of collapse," announced a 3,000 per cent boost in petrol prices and huge food-price increases Wednesday as part of a drastic austerity plan.

Economy Minister Juan Hurtado Miller also unveiled an overhaul in foreign trade and exchange policies as part of the plan to replenish the state's empty coffers and halt inflation that last month hit 63 per cent.

"These measures... are needed so that our country, on the brink of collapse, finds a road that will allow it to look to the future with hope," said Hurtado Miller, who is also prime minister.

President Alberto Fujimori's 12-day-old government has grappled with severe food shortages, panic buying and leftist guerrilla violence.

Until now, Peruvian petrol has been among the cheapest in the world, cheaper in some cases than Coca-Cola.

Hurtado Miller also announced a 10 per cent tax on exports plus the end of duty exemptions on some imports to boost the state's earnings.

He announced price increases averaging 700 per cent on price-controlled foodstuffs like rice, bread and sugar. He said the government would lift all controls on imports but leave a maximum import duty of 50 per cent in place, and would create a single exchange rate.

given the severe nature of the package.

Nearly the entire country, including Lima and every other large city, was under a state of emergency, giving the army wide powers over law enforcement and suspending most civil rights. Police and army troops patrolled central Lima, and many stores closed their doors early for fear of looting.

To cushion the plan's effects on the poor, Hurtado Miller said all workers in both the private and public sectors would receive a bonus equal to their July wage.

Hurtado Miller vowed to bring inflation, now running at three per cent a day, down to below the Latin American average by the end of the year, saying he would resign if he did not.

He did not specify the Latin American average.

Government officials said before the speech that they were not ruling out supermarket looting.

Bahraini bank reports profits rise

BAHRAIN (R) — National Bank of Bahrain BSC (NBB), the island's oldest commercial bank, said its net profit for the first half of 1990 rose 12.5 per cent to 5.4 million dinars (\$14.4 million) from the same period last year.

The bank said in a statement the increase in profits was mainly due to a cut in loan loss provisions to 1.9 million dinars (\$5 million) for the first half of 1990 from 2.5 million (\$6.6 million) the previous year. NBB, Bahrain's second-largest commercial bank in terms of assets after Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, did not give figures for operating profit or expenses.

Total assets rose 1.5 per cent from a year ago to stand at 680.3 million dinars (\$1,809 billion) at June 30, 1990.

Turmoil in Gulf banking deepens

DUBAI (R) — Turmoil in Gulf banking over the Kuwait crisis deepened Thursday and dealers reported some banks facing trouble after big cash withdrawals.

"We have had a bit of a run on cash today, especially in the Eastern Province," said one Saudi Arabia-based dealer.

"I still wouldn't call it panic but it's getting toward that edge," said a dealer in Bahrain.

Banks in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain were awaiting direction from their central banks while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) central bank said the UAE dirham was sound and that its assets amounted to over three times currency in circulation.

Depositors in Bahrain were drawing their funds out of some of the smaller, less well established banks and around the Gulf there was heavy demand for dollar bills, other non-Gulf currencies, and for travellers' cheques, dealers said.

Iraq's invasion a week ago and annexation of Kuwait Wednesday has effectively wiped the Kuwaiti dinar off trading boards.

Confidence has been further hit by confusion over how far banks are exposed to Kuwait and Iraqi debt and by a U.S. Treasury note to banks reviewing the position of 26 Middle East banks with Kuwaiti holdings.

Banking sentiment in Bahrain and eastern Saudi Arabia is especially jittery. Both are close to the potential border flashpoint as Western military forces gather to oppose Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Some dealers said even the

largest Saudi Arabian banks were beginning to look harder for funds.

"Up in the Eastern Province, I hear some banks have even run out of travellers' cheques," said the Saudi dealer.

Bahrain's offshore and domestic banking system is hard hit because the tiny island does not have a large depositor base from which to draw funds.

Bankers noted that huge oil exports still flowing from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), sold for dollars, were a tremendous source of liquidity.

But in the UAE, 90 minutes flying time from Kuwait, fear that the Gulf crisis would heat up was affecting depositor confidence.

In one major UAE-based bank in the morning investors were busily switching time deposits from Bahrain-based offshore banks.

In the local bazaar less well-paid expatriates from the Indian subcontinent and Asia, who traditionally use cash rather than bank accounts, were having to pay four dirhams for a dollar rather than the central bank fixed rate of 3.67.

UAE monetary authorities said they had no intention of imposing exchange controls. Since Wednesday the amount of dollars the banks had sold to the central bank was greater than the amount they had taken from it, they added.

Bankers in Oman also reported uncertainty, but less than in countries further up the Gulf.

OPEC chief urges members to avoid split in ranks

ALGIERS (AP) — The president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) urged members Wednesday not to split their fragile unity over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Algerian minister of mines and industry, Sadek Boussena, declared that unilateral steps by member states to raise production without OPEC consent risked destabilising global oil markets.

Boussena released a news statement late Wednesday saying he had held "broad consultations" with other OPEC members since Iraq invaded Kuwait a week ago.

"All the ministers of the consulted member countries feel any individual initiatives... should be avoided to preserve OPEC's unity and to not thwart its collective capacity to play a role as a stabilising factor on the market," the statement said.

Such unilateral actions would "necessarily have only a limited impact," the statement said. It did not specify which countries Boussena had contacted.

An United Nations embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil blocks 3.5 to four million barrels of crude per day from global markets, U.S. President George Bush said earlier he would ask

other countries to make up the shortfall.

Boussena said analysts and leaders in OPEC countries agreed that fears by oil consumers of a short-term rupture in supplies were due to "psychological and speculative factors."

World land-based and offshore oil reserves are high enough to fulfill global needs through the end of the year, Boussena said.

"We are, however, fully aware that the developments brought about by the events in the Gulf have brought uncertainties to the balance and stability of the international petroleum market as well as the unity of our organisation," the statement said.

Boussena promised that OPEC would take whatever measures necessary to ensure the "fundamental interests" of oil producers and consumers.

"The stability of supplying the international petroleum market is a responsibility divided among all oil producers, the international petroleum industry, governments of consumer countries and international energy agencies," the statement said.

Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and other major oil-producing nations have agreed to increase their output, which should suppress crude prices that have risen dramatically since the invasion.

Soviets get right to set up small businesses

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet citizens have been given the right to set up small businesses under regulations approved Wednesday by the government.

A government resolution published by TASS news agency gave individuals, groups and existing plants the right to set up businesses employing up to 200 people.

It said the resolution was adopted as part of a government plan to put the ailing Soviet economy on a market basis within five years.

The national parliament approved outlines of the plan last June and gave Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov until September to draw up specific plans, including some 15 new laws.

The plan calls for the creation of a stock market, the introduction of a realistic pricing system,

easing of controls on foreign investment and measures to make the rouble convertible over time.

It was not immediately clear whether parliament would have to approve Wednesday's government resolution, but last June's guidelines authorised President Mikhail Gorbachev to issue decrees if necessary to speed implementation of reforms.

Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed last month to set up a working group to weld Ryzhkov's plan into a more radical scheme by Russian officials to lift price controls and subsidies within 500 days.

The resolution said local authorities should provide economic help to people wishing to set up small businesses by selling or leasing idle equipment or building sites.

Shell income drops

LONDON (R) — Falling oil prices in the first half of 1990 hit sharply into Royal Dutch/Shell Group's profits, slicing net income by 40 per cent, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant has reported.

A sharp rise in crude oil prices following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last Thursday is not reflected in Shell's latest figures but is expected to influence results for the full year.

Prices were weak in the much of the first six months of the year because OPEC overproduction glutted the market.

Net income for the first six months of 1990 fell to £1.38 billion (\$2.59 billion) from £2.29 billion (\$4.29 billion) in the same 1989 period.

The company said that in the second quarter of the year "exploration and production earnings

fell owing to lower crude oil prices outweighing increased production volumes."

Shell said: "The outlook for the full year is obviously extremely uncertain and almost entirely dependent on how events in the Middle East unfold."

The company said it did not expect to increase its overall oil production in the second half of the year.

"Maintenance and safety programmes will temporarily interrupt North Sea production from the Brent system, but this is expected to be offset by additional production in other areas," it said.

Shell is among producers hit by a strike by North Sea maintenance workers, but it has said the dispute has not hit oil and gas output.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Canada halts grain shipment to Iraq

VANCOUVER (R) — Canadian authorities have ordered a Panamanian-registered ship not to load 50,000 tonnes of grain for Iraq, the Canadian Wheat Board has said. Spokesman Charles Thompson said the loading of the Oceanic Explorer had been scheduled for Tuesday. The Canadian government has imposed economic sanctions on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. The ship, which arrived in Vancouver Tuesday, remains in the harbour, according to officials at the Pacific port.

Texaco shuts 'Neutral Zone' refinery

NEW YORK (AP) — Texaco Inc. has said it had halted production at its crude oil refinery in the so-called "Neutral Zone" between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia because the company cannot ship product from the plant. A number of countries have embargoed imports of oil from Kuwait since the nation was seized last week by neighbouring Iraq. Texaco owns the refinery and has rights to 50 per cent of its production. Kuwait has rights to the other 50 per cent of production. David Dickson, a spokesman for Texaco, said most of the 800 workers at the refinery, including 17 Americans, had left the site. He also said the refinery could be restarted within days if shipments could resume.

Romania cracks down on black market

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has announced a tough new law aimed at curbing widespread black marketeering. Under the new law, black market traders can be fined up to 60,000 lei (\$3,000) and have their profits confiscated. The National Salvation Front government, which took power after the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December, has stated its determination to curb rampant black marketeering. Unlicensed traders, many of them gypsies, are paraded frequently on television with their

boards of foreign cigarettes, liquor and electronic goods. Under the new law published by the domestic news agency Romspre, traders are allowed to make a profit of no more than 10 per cent on unprocessed goods bought from state or cooperative enterprises, or 20 per cent if the merchandise has been repackaged or stored.

Iran Air buys 6 Fokker-100 planes

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Air has signed a contract to buy six Fokker-100 passenger planes from Holland, Tehran radio has said. It quoted Hassan Shafii, managing director of the state-owned Iranian company, as saying the planes would replace old aircraft on domestic routes. The 108-seat planes, to be delivered by March, are low-noise and more fuel-efficient than similar craft, Shafii added. The report, monitored in Nicosia, did not give a price for the contract.

Algeria approves major joint venture

ALGIERS (R) — The central bank of Algeria has approved the first joint venture between a state company and foreign partners under a law passed in March. The Algerian state oil company Sonatrach, Air Products and Chemicals Inc. of the United States and Air Liquide of France, signed the new company. Helios, into being, Bachir Achour, director of Sonatrach's liquefaction department, told Algiers radio. Next year Helios will start building facilities to produce 16 million cubic metres of helium and 33,000 tonnes of nitrogen a year alongside the petrochemical complex in the western coastal town of Arzew, he said. Most of the helium will be exported to Europe for the space industry and for underwater use, while the nitrogen will be sold on the local and North African markets. Sonatrach holds a 51 per cent stake in Helios, with the rest divided between the foreign partners.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

FRANTIC

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
KAFTOUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45
ONCE BITTEN
8:15 only

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Sharhan
Kamal Al Shinnawi
Salah Gabil
in
THE SCORPIO
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Adel Imam, Yusra
in
The Devil's Island
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

The Most Beautiful Women In Universe
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.

East Berlin fails to pass law regulating all-German elections

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Plans to move German unification up to October were set back Thursday when East Germany's parliament failed to pass a law regulating all-German elections and West German lawmakers postponed a vote on the same measure.

The East German legislators came up just short of the two-thirds majority needed to approve the treaty, which lays the groundwork for the first pan-German elections since 1933.

A total of 258 lawmakers voted for the measure, nine shy of the 267 votes needed to pass in the 400-seat parliament. There were 63 opposing votes, six abstentions and 73 members failed to participate.

On Wednesday evening, East German lawmakers called for all-German elections and unification on Oct. 14. But that vote does little good without the election treaty.

West Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, had been expected to ratify the treaty Thursday. But political factions in the Bundestag agreed to postpone the vote until Aug. 23 when they learned of the East German vote.

In a raucous special session of the Bundestag, lawmakers from

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition and his rivals charged each other with slowing unification and sowing uncertainty in East Germany.

"We must come to an agreement on what must be done to help the people in the DDR (East Germany)," said Social Democrat Oskar Lafontaine, Kohl's rival for the leadership of a united Germany.

Lafontaine also reiterated charges by the Social Democrats that Kohl has not been honest with the public about the true costs of unity.

"You can fool some of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but not all of the people all of the time," said Lafontaine, using an American adage.

At the heart of the dispute over pan-German elections is intense disagreement over precisely when that vote and formal unity should occur.

Even though East Germany is now on the record as favouring unity and elections on Oct. 14, such an idea could fail in the West German parliament.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere proposed the Oct. 14 date.

But a change in West Germany's constitution is needed to make that date possible. West Germany's opposition Social Democrats have vowed they will not approve the Oct. 14 date, which would deny Kohl the two-thirds parliamentary vote he needs for a constitutional change.

The Social Democrats want unity on Sept. 15 and all-German elections on Dec. 2.

Both major political groups are trying to time elections to their best political advantage.

The Social Democrats believe Kohl's quest to be the unification chancellor could be damaged if elections are held later, after West Germans feel the weight of East Germany's economic woes.

Kohl, for the same reason, is believed to want elections as fast as possible.

Under the proposal that passed the East German parliament on a vote of 187-148 with 11 abstentions, the first united German elections would be held Oct. 14. Unification is to take place either immediately after or before balloting.

East German lawmakers also agreed that unification would take place only after major international and domestic questions on unity are resolved.

Kremlin will not use force — Armenian president

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kremlin has pledged not to use force against paramilitary groups in Armenia amid growing signs of accord between the Soviet Union and its volatile southern republic.

Armenia's new nationalist president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, told a Moscow news conference Thursday he was also ready to reach a compromise with Azerbaijan, the republic's bitter rival, over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ter-Petrosian, who was sworn in as Armenian president last weekend, is in Moscow to discuss Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's July 25 decree ordering armed groups in Armenia to disband within 15 days.

Gorbachev warned in his decree that Soviet troops could be used to seize weapons if Armenian groups formed during two years of violent clashes with ethnic Azeris did not surrender their arms and disband. Armenia's parliament, tacitly backing the paramilitary groups, suspended the decree.

Ter-Petrosian said he had now been given assurances by senior officials, including the Soviet interior minister, that the deadline for handing over weapons, set for Thursday, would be extended.

"We have an agreement that we will be able to carry out the decree freely with our own forces without intervention from outside. We have a strict agreement. They will not send in any troops," Ter-Petrosian's statements marked an easing of tension between Armenia and the Kremlin, and were the first signs of a possible compromise with Azerbaijan.

"A compromise is possible, but we have to begin with the recovery of local Soviets and the withdrawal of troops from Nagorno-Karabakh," he said.

Ter-Petrosian said Armenia's parliament was in control of the Armenian Nationalist Army (ANA), the largest paramilitary group.

"The leadership of the Armenian Nationalist Army stated a few days ago that it would be fully submissive to the Armenian parliament," he said.

But it was unclear whether the republic's new leadership wields much influence over the paramilitary group.

The deputy commander of the ANA said on Soviet television Thursday the paramilitary group — created, its supporters say, to defend Armenia against Azerbaijan — would not disarm.

"We are not going to surrender our weapons," said Akik Gevorkyan.

Ter-Petrosian met Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov Wednesday. The Armenian leader said he had discussed the situation by telephone with Gorbachev, now on holiday in the Crimea.

"There is reason to believe that the political situation in the republic is changing. There is hope that Armenian authorities are in a position within a short period to resolve all tasks themselves ...," TASS quoted Bakatin as saying.

Meanwhile the parliament of Armenia began debating a declaration of independence.

Ter-Petrosian appeared in a speech before Tuesday for the republic's restive and armed citizens to act with cool heads.



Khmer Rouge guerrillas squat in a base on Cambodia's western fringes

China wants Cambodian coalition to retain U.N. seat

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said Wednesday that Peking wants the rebels led by ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk to retain Cambodia's U.N. seat until an interim government is formed.

Li made the comments while in Indonesia for the formal resumption of diplomatic relations that had been suspended for 23 years.

At a news conference, Li discussed Peking's support for the Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction in the Sihanouk-led guerrilla coalition. The Khmer Rouge had ruled Cambodia in the late 1970s before being ousted by Vietnamese troops that installed a

new government.

Hundreds of thousands of people died during the rule of the fanatical Khmer Rouge Communists.

Li reiterated that Peking would stop supplying arms to the Khmer Rouge only when it believed Vietnam had pulled out all its troops from Cambodia and other nations stopped military support for the other rebel factions.

"China supports all three Cambodian guerrilla factions and not only the Khmer Rouge ... China will never let the Khmer Rouge become the dominant power in Cambodia," Li said.

Li made the statement in response to a question about the recent decision of the United States to distance itself from the Khmer Rouge by withdrawing recognition of the rebel U.N. seat and opening talks on Cambodia with Vietnam.

Li had arrived in Indonesia Monday for a five-day state visit. On Wednesday, he and President Suharto witnessed the formal resumption of ties, embodied in a signing ceremony at the Merdeka (Freedom) Palace by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

Kashmir talks scheduled for Friday

NEW DELHI (AP) — India and Pakistan will resume talks later this week on reducing tensions over the disputed state of Kashmir, Indian officials have said.

The dismissal of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should not affect Islamabad's stand on the talks, said officials from the External Affairs Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The same people are in charge," said one ministry official. "If anything, the restraining hand of Bhutto is not there now. But anyway, she has been showing little restraint in the past nine months."

Bhutto was dismissed Monday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and replaced by a caretaker prime minister. But Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was retained in his post, which Indian officials say, means that

Islamabad's foreign policies will remain largely unchanged.

The talks, between Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan and Muckund Dubey, his Indian counterpart, begin in New Delhi Friday.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since gaining independence in 1947. This Summer, tensions between the two nations flared over the state of Kashmir, which both countries claim.

The armies of both nations moved closer to their borders and Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh asked his countrymen to be psychologically prepared for war. The crisis was averted largely due to diplomatic intervention by the U.S. and the Soviet Union and Indian and Pakistani officials met for talks in Islamabad last month.

No progress was made other than a decision to meet again.

Indian accuses Pakistan of supporting a Muslim secessionist movement in Kashmir by providing arms and training to Muslim militants. Pakistan, an Islamic state, denies the charge but says it will back any movement for self-determination by the Kashmiri people.

At least 935 people have been killed in the Kashmir Valley since New Delhi cracked down on the secessionist movement on Jan. 20.

Jammu-Kashmir state, which includes the valley and the Jammu plains to the south, is the only one of India's 25 provinces with a Muslim majority. At least 65 per cent of its 6 million people are Muslim.

Nationwide, Muslims make up 12 per cent of the country's 880 million people while Hindus comprise 82 per cent.

Nagasaki mayor apologises for past

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) — The mayor of Nagasaki, the second city devastated by an atomic bomb, apologised Thursday for Japan's past aggression in a ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the attack.

In a declaration at Nagasaki's Peace Park, Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima cited Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910, the 15 years of war with China and the Pacific war.

"In the process more than 20 million precious lives were lost here and abroad. We must reflect with sincerity on the war, pray for the repose of their souls and consider how to make amends," Motoshima told 20,000 people at the ceremony.

Three days after the world's first nuclear attack on Hiroshima, a U.S. bomber dropped the second atomic bomb on this western port on Aug. 9, 1945.

More than 70,000 people were killed in the blast, heat and radiation it unleashed. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15.

Motoshima, 68, is a controversial figure, reviled by Japan's highly vocal right wing for daring to break a taboo on admitting any Japanese guilt for the immense sufferings the imperial army brought to Asia.

Last January he nearly died after being shot in the back,

allegedly by an enraged right-wing extremist, after making a speech saying the late Emperor Hirohito must himself bear some responsibility for Japan's aggression towards its neighbours.

On Thursday an unrepentant Motoshima, after again noting Japan's responsibility for the war, became the first Japanese politician to apologise formally to the Korean, Chinese and other non-Japanese survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks.

"During the 45 years since World War II," he said, "the plight of non-Japanese atomic bomb survivors has been virtually ignored."

NASA prepares shuttle for early September launch

WASHINGTON (AP) — Space shuttle Columbia, sporting new hardware to replace the leaky pipes that grounded it earlier, will be rolled to the launch pad late this week and prepared for an early September liftoff, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

William Lenoir, NASA's associate administrator for spaceflight, said the space agency is so confident that Columbia will be ready to fly that a plan to test the shuttle for leaks of its hydrogen fuel has been cancelled.

NASA has not launched a space shuttle since April. Launch attempts to Columbia and of Atlantis were scrubbed after hydrogen leaks were discovered on the craft, and the shuttle fleet was grounded.

Lenoir said that tests have determined that Columbia's leak came a plumbing connection. Called an umbilical, it was replaced with new hardware from endeavour, a space shuttle now being built.

Tests showed that the leak on Atlantis was in another place in the maze of pipes that carry liquid hydrogen, Lenoir said, meaning the leaks were from two separate problems and did not indicate a design or manufacturing weak-

ness in the shuttle system. Atlantis, still on the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, will be rolled back to the hangar for repairs late this week.

Columbia will take its place and be prepared for a lift off on Sept. 4 or 5, Lenoir said.

The purpose of Columbia's mission is to carry into orbit an array of astronomy instruments. A seven-man crew will use the instruments to study the stars during a nine-day flight.

Atlantis had been scheduled to fly a secret military mission. That flight has yet to be rescheduled. Atlantis, however, is scheduled to fly a science mission in November and Columbia is scheduled for a space laboratory mission in December.

NASA engineers plan to spend much of September preparing for the Oct. 5 launch of space shuttle Discovery and its payload, the Ulysses space probe. The Ulysses, which is destined to go into a polar orbit of the sun, can only be launched during a planetary alignment of the Earth and Jupiter which occurs once every 13 months.

Meanwhile a mirror design flaw in a new \$1-billion series of weather satellites could delay

their launch and leave forecasters "standing in front of blank screens," the New York Times reported Wednesday.

The flaw is in Mirrors meant to reflect images from the satellites' telescopes, the newspaper said, citing federal official and experts. The problem is that the mirrors warp when heated, as sunlight would do in outer space.

The trouble is another blow to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which is supervising the satellites' construction. The space agency already is reeling from problems with its shuttle fleet and a defective mirror on its \$1.5-billion Hubble space telescope.

The two mirror problems are technically unrelated, the Times said.

Officials said they have no estimate of how much it will cost to correct the satellite mirror problem or how long the launch of the first advanced satellite might be delayed. It is scheduled for 1992, but the Times said unofficial estimates put the delay at anywhere from two months to more than a year.

James R. Greaves, NASA programme manager for meteorological satellites, said

"scary aspect" is that the nation is now down to one working advanced satellite.

"If that fails, weather people are going to be standing in front of blank screens," he said.

The United States also has planes, radar and other satellites that contain forecasting equipment, but only this type of satellite gives a comprehensive view of the weather situation at any instant.

The five-year lifetime of the current advanced satellite, which beams the weather pictures used in newspapers and on television, ends in February 1992, although it might last longer.

Elbert W. Friday Jr., head of the National Weather Service, said that loss of advanced satellite coverage would constitute "a national emergency," with significantly less capability for making forecasts and tracking hurricanes and other storms.

The five new satellites are being built by Ford Aerospace under NASA supervision, at a cost of \$1 billion. Greaves said the mirrors had been built correctly by the Applied Optics Corp. according to ITT Corp. specifications.

Tamil rebels kill 9 more villagers in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels shot or hacked to death nine Sinhalese in the latest of a spate of attacks which have killed more than 250 villagers in a week, Sri Lankan military sources said Thursday.

The assault Wednesday night brought to 266 the number of Muslims and Sinhalese villagers killed since Friday.

The sources said four women and a child were among the victims of the latest attack, in which rebels with guns and axes stormed houses at Naragamuwe in northern Vavuni district.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne blamed the killings on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The rebels have denied responsibility.

Wijeratne told a news conference the Tigers, who launched an offensive against the security forces in June, were attacking civilians in desperation.

"Their strategy is now to prevent the onslaught against them

in the northern areas," Wijeratne said.

Some 150 Muslims were killed when Tiger gunmen burst into two mosques in eastern Batticaloa district last Friday and sprayed bullets at worshippers. About 100 people were injured.

Other victims have been killed in attacks while working in their rice fields. Wijeratne said the rebels were trying to stop farmers harvesting rice.

Muslim leaders at a news conference Thursday appealed to Muslims to remain calm and not to retaliate against innocent Tamils.

The northern and eastern provinces are mainly inhabited by Tamils who form 13 per cent of the island's population of 16 million.

Muslims comprise about seven per cent and a large number of them live in the northeast. The Sinhalese, making up nearly 75 per cent, live mostly in the rest of the island.

N. Korea refuses to accept list of Southern visitors

SEOUL (R) — North Korea refused Thursday to accept a list of 61,355 prospective visitors from South Korea, and a Seoul official said this virtually ruled out proposed cross-border travel between the two Koreas next week.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-Muk in a telephone message to South Korean counterpart Kang Young-Hoon set conditions, which Seoul has already rejected, for the visits, the official said.

"The pre-conditions virtually make it impossible for the two Koreas to go ahead with the proposed exchange of border-crossing visits" from 13 to 17, government spokesmen said.

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo proposed last month that the two sides open the heavily guarded border for five days from Aug. 13 to mark Korean independence day on Aug. 15 and to promote reunification.

The North Korean message said the proposed visits with the South depended on Seoul allowing a North Korean "consolation" group to meet a jailed woman student and two Christian clergymen who made illegal trips to the North last year.

Pyeongyang also demanded Seoul revoke its national security law banning all pro-Pyongyang activities and allow the dissident coalition Chonminyon to attend a border rally, being arranged by Pyongyang and Chonminyon for Aug. 15.

Yon said he would accept the list of visitors only when Seoul met the conditions.

South Korea has said the northern consoling group could meet relatives of the jailed dissidents but not the prisoners themselves.

It also said it would allow the border rally only when Koreans from all segments of society could attend.

North Korea has insisted it should screen the border rally participants.

South Korean government leaders have promised to revise the national security laws but have not yet taken any action.

Mulroney sends army to end Mohawk standoff

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has said he would send in the army to help end a month-long standoff between Quebec police and armed Mohawk Indians barricaded at two reservations in the province.

Mulroney said he hoped the conflict would be settled peacefully and appointed Quebec Superior Court Justice Alan Gold to mediate a bitter land dispute between the Mohawks and the Quebec provincial government.

But he did not rule out the use of force. "The army is not going in as a peacekeeping force," Mulroney said at a news conference in Ottawa. "There're going in to ensure that the laws of Canada are respected and to contribute to an ambience whereby Chief Justice Gold can do his work."

Mulroney said the government had completed negotiations to purchase the disputed territory at Oka and would turn it over to the

Mohawks at another reservation near Montreal occupied the Mercier Bridge linking the island of Montreal to the southern suburbs and threatened to blow it up if police attempted another raid at Oka.

The Mir programme, increasingly criticised for its high cost at a time of economic crisis, has been dogged by launch delays and faulty equipment.

COLUMN

Only French bubbly is real champagne

WELLINGTON (R) — Wine-makers from the French district of Champagne won a court case Thursday against a wine shop advertising Australian sparkling wine as champagne. Judge John Jeffries said the case was about whether in New Zealand the word had "crossed the divide from a distinctive word to a generic word. This case is not strictly about wine, but a word." The Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne and producers Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin, Champagne Lanson Pere et Fils and Champagne Bollinger, who brought the action, said a survey showed 43 per cent of New Zealanders identified the word "champagne" with France. "The word 'champagne' has in New Zealand a reputation built by them of quality, excellence and enchantment," the committee's lawyer argued. "They fear that the appellation 'champagne' will be gravely devalued by ruthless marketing such as has taken place in Australia which has cheapened the word," Jeffries agreed. "The court's decision is that the word 'champagne' in New Zealand is not generally used to describe any white sparkling wine."

Broadway opening to Miss Saigon cancelled

LONDON (R) — The producer of the British hit musical Miss Saigon said Wednesday he was cancelling the show's Broadway run, despite advance sales of over \$20 million, because of a row over one of the leading roles. The U.S. Actors' Union equity has refused to let British actor Jonathan Pryce, who starred as a Eurasian brothel owner in the British stage version, appear in the same role on Broadway on the grounds that he is the wrong race for the part. Producer Cameron Mackintosh said in a statement issued in London he had dropped plans for the Broadway opening in protest at the equity ruling, which came after pressure from Asian groups to block the casting of a Caucasian in the role. Equity said it would be an affront to the Asian community to cast a Caucasian actor, made up to look Eurasian, in the part. The union says not enough Asian actors were auditioned for the role. The union said it expected the casting decision to be taken to arbitration and acknowledged it would have trouble winning the case.

Rarest bird down to one in the wild

LONDON (R) — Conservationists have issued an urgent appeal to save what is believed to be the last Spix's Macaw surviving in the wild. The International Council for Bird Preservation said the Spix's Macaw, a long-tailed blue parrot found only in a small area of Brazil's Bahia state, was unable to find a mate of the same species and had teamed up with a different bird. "The lonely parrot has paired up with a single blue-winged Macaw, a quite different bird," the council said. It said the last Spix's Macaw in the jungle was being stalked by trappers as rich private collectors were ready to pay up to \$30,000 (\$56,000) for a single bird. The council called for the release of at least one of the 15 Spix's Macaws in private collections and for the establishment of a rescue centre in northern Brazil where other captive birds could be bred and offspring released into the wild. All the captive birds were caught illegally and smuggled out of Brazil in defiance of international wildlife protection agreements.

Largest Soviet private art collection stolen

MOSCOW (R) — Thieves broke into a flat, tied up its owner and fled with the largest private art collection in the Soviet Union, worth more than \$3 million, the daily Izvestia said. The newspaper said about 30 works were taken. They belonged to a well-known art collector, identified as V. Magits, and included 17th and 18th century Dutch and German works. Also among the stolen items, Izvestia said, were old Russian icons and rare miniature portraits. "Specialists say this is the worst theft of a private collection in the USSR," and give a preliminary estimate of "more than \$3 million for the stolen works," it said. "The newspaper did not say when the attack had occurred, but added there had been several major thefts recently."